Horticultural Society

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, THE FARM, THE GARDEN, THE FIRESIDE, RURAL LIFE, LITERATURE, USEFUL ARTS, NEWS, &c.

AND NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.

VOLUME XXXVIII::::NO. 24. BOSTON, SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1879. WHOLE NUMBER 1940.

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN AND NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.

Official Organ of the N. E. Agricultural Society

ISSUED WEEKLY AT "PLOUGHMAN BUILDING,"

No. 43 Milk Street, (cor. Devonshire St.,

(Opposite the New Post Office,)

BOSTON.

GEO. NOYES, Proprietor & Publisher.

TERMS: $2.50 per annum in advance. $3.00 if not paid in advance. Single copies SIX CENTS.

☞ No paper discontinued except at the option of the publisher, until all arrearages are paid.

☞ The PLOUGHMAN offers great advantages to advertisers. Its circulation is large, and among the most active and intelligent portion of the community.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING.—One square, of eight lines, to insertion, $1.00; each subsequent insertion, 50 cts.

NEWSPAPER DECISIONS.

1. Every person orders his paper discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send, and collect the whole amount whether it is taken from the office or not.

2. According to law, papers may be forwarded until an express order of a discontinuance is received; and whether taken by the subscriber or not from the place where they are deposited, he is accountable for the pay until he orders a discontinuance and pays what is due.

☞ Postage on the PLOUGHMAN is 20 cents a year within the United States.

Editorial.

BASKET WILLOW.

It is about twenty-five years since the Basket Willow was introduced into this country from Europe. Since that time repeated efforts have been made to grow it with success, but failure has been the rule and success the exception.

It will be the purpose of this article to give some of the reasons for the failures and to point out the way to success. Failures have been caused first, because no one could know the particular variety best adapted to our climate, until repeated experiments had been made with some of the most promising varieties. Second, the fact that different varieties required different soils being entirely overlooked, all varieties were set on moist, cold land, but by accident it was found that the best variety of basket willow required warm, dry land.

Third, as a rule, only small plantations have been set, and by those whose occupation has so absorbed their time and attention that they have failed to inform themselves in regard to the best methods of cultivation or time of harvesting.

Fourth, although Yankee ingenuity has already invented a cheap and very simple machine for stripping the bark from the willows, the inventor has waited for their more extensive cultivation before he puts his machine in the market, thus compelling growers, with but little knowledge of the business, to strip their willows by hand labor, as practiced by the Germans. Other reasons could be given, but these are the principal ones.

The following are the varieties of willows generally used in basket work: Salix Viminalis or white osier, Salix Purpurea, red osier, Salix Vitellina or yellow osier, Salix Forbyana and Salix Triandra. The variety imported under the name of Salix Viminalis seems to be best adapted to our climate when grown on warm, dry land, and is considered by basket manufacturers superior to all other varieties in smoothness, whiteness, length and flexibility. It is an exceedingly vigorous grower, and on warm, rich soil will make a growth of from eight to ten feet in a season.

For a plantation of this variety a warm, dry soil suitable for a good crop of Indian corn should be selected, and should be ploughed and manured the same as for a crop of corn; for the best results it should be land that has been planted with some hoed crop the previous year.

The willows being cut in slips about twelve inches in length should be set in the ground about two feet apart each way at an angle of about 45 degrees, leaving about three inches above the ground; if the soil is as loose as it should be, this can be done very rapidly by pressing the slips into the ground with the hands. Weeds and grass should be kept entirely clear the first and second years; after that but very little labor will be required. If the land is in good condition when the slips are set, experience proves that good yearly crops can be obtained without any fertilizers except the leaves which as they fall are kept in place by the numerous stumps made by the yearly cutting of the willows, so that when a plantation is three years old the only expense is in harvesting and stripping the bark from the wood. It is the usual custom to allow the slips after being set to grow two years before cutting; the first cutting is of but little value except for slips for new plantations, but the next and each succeeding crop will be valuable for baskets.

In regard to the time of cutting the willows there is a difference of opinion; while some would cut in the autumn and pack in a cool damp place, others would cut in March, and still others would wait until the bark will peal, and peal them as fast as cut.

If one has a proper place the first named time is the best, but if not then cut in March as soon as the ice is gone; tie in bundles of about thirty pounds each, keeping the butts as even as possible; set the bundles in an upright position in water about six inches deep; those cut in autumn should be taken from winter quarters the last of March and treated in the same way. If left until the bark slips the stripping must all be done in a few days or they will be advanced so far that the leaves will increase the labor of stripping and also injure the appearance of the wood; thus one who has a large plantation will be driven to the necessity of adopting one of the two first named methods, either of which are undoubtedly best to keep up the strength and vigor of the roots.

When the willows are cut and set in water, as soon as the bark begins to peal freely, the work of stripping should begin. If it is to be done by hand labor the bark should be loosened by drawing the willow through a slot with a slight spring to it and protected on the sides with iron; the bark when thus loosened is picked off by children; but machines for this work will soon be in the market, at a price so low that every farmer can have one. After being stripped the willow is tied up in convenient bundles and is ready for market. There is always a ready sale in the city for good viminalis willow at prices varying from $120 to $160 per ton. An acre of land will produce from one to three tons.

That this is a crop, which, when properly understood and rightly managed, can be grown at a good profit in New England is fully believed by those who are best acquainted with its culture. In these times when farmers are feeling that they need new and more profitable crops to cultivate, they would do well to look into the claims of the basket willow, but they are recommended to move with caution, be sure and get the true salix viminalis and not be imposed upon by those who care for nothing but selfish gains. The true viminalis grows very long and slender, and when pealed is smooth and white, surpassing all others in these qualities. Purchase but a thousand or two to start with, then if you find you have the right variety and that your soil is adapted to its growth, you can increase your plantation in a few years to any extent from your own stock and thus save a large outlay of money for cuttings.

SHORTS.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

An article appeared in the *Ploughman* of Feb. 15, signed by J. H., of Shrewsbury, Mass., under the head of "Feeding Stock," in which the writer gives two experiments in feeding stock, one made by himself, and the other by a friend. On these experiments the writer bases the following conclusions: "These two experiments satisfy me that the value of shorts for producing milk is not great. My present impressions are that New England farmers pay hundreds of thousands of dollars for shorts, for which they never receive back half the money they pay for them."

The experiment of this writer as stated by him was deficient in accuracy to an extent which makes the conclusion below the merit of Yankee guessing. And even applying a few figures with a little reasoning to his experiment shows the falsity of his conclusions. But in order to give a fair statement of his case I quote his own words.

"I was in early winter feeding two good spring cows with two quarts each of shorts per day, with cut corn stover, making four quarts of shorts a day for two cows. The two were giving seven or eight quarts of milk per day. I thought I would double the quantity of shorts and increase the quantity of milk. I doubled the shorts, but to my surprise and disappointment, with very little increase in the quantity. I then decided to make the experiment thorough, and doubled the quantity of shorts again, making a peck of shorts per day for each cow. Well, the two doublings did increase the quantity of milk a little, two or three quarts a day; that is all for the twelve additional quarts of shorts, not half enough to pay for the shorts."

I wish the writer had been so accurate as to know exactly what his cows were giving before and during the trial, instead of saying "seven or eight quarts," and "two or three quarts." Then the exact *cost* of the shorts, with the *value* of the milk would have been much better than "not half enough to pay for the shorts."

This writer seemingly falls into the same error as some others, in estimating the value of shorts by measure, instead of weight. Now his twelve quarts of shorts additional would weigh seven and one-half pounds. Shorts the past fall were sold at fifteen dollars per ton, which is three-fourths of a cent per pound; and seven and one-half pounds would be five and five-eights cents. This would be less than three cents per quart for two quarts additional, and less than two cents if there were three quarts additional. Further than this, something ought to be credited to the benefit of the cow, as well as increase of milk.

Instances might be given where other men have experimented with shorts, to conclusions, that, whereas they did not believe in them, they now buy by the car load.

Shorts fed to laying hens, in the proportion of one part corn meal and two parts shorts, are very valuable. This is an argument in favor of shorts for milk, as the constituent parts of milk and eggs are almost identical.

Shorts mixed with corn meal are also valuable for the health and growth of swine. They are also good for horses, fed in limited quantities.

If good English hay is to be taken as the basis of value for feeding, which seems to be admitted, then we can judge of the comparative value of shorts. These cost less per ton than hay. Does any one believe that seven and one-half pounds of English hay additional will produce two or three quarts of milk?

L. H. S.

Wayland, Mass., Feb. 19.

TREAT THE COWS KINDLY.

[Rural World.]

Treat the cows you milk with the greatest kindness. Never bawl at, or kick or strike a cow. If cows are treated kindly, they will readily yield their milk. If abused, they will hold it up. Most cows are ruined when heifers. Some rough, passionate man undertakes to break them to milk. They are fearful they will be hurt, hold up their milk, kick, will not stand still, and the man who breaks them kicks and maltreats them, and they kick in return, and are perhaps permanently ruined as free, kind milkers.

Calves and heifers should be petted till they give milk. They should be taught that man is their friend—not enemy. They should be well fed because they can't give milk without eating the material to furnish it. If given warm stables and warm beds, their systems do not require so much food in winter to keep up the animal heat, and they will give more milk therefor. For family cows, heifers with their first calves should be milked till within a few weeks of their coming in again. Ever after, they will continue to give milk up to the same time. If dried off early, they will always dry up their milk early.

GRUBS IN THE HIDE.

[Prairie Farmer.]

In order to wage a successful war against the mound-builders on the backs of cattle, it is a matter of choice whether to employ cold or red-hot steel. A narrow bladed, small knife, or a penknife, or a darning needle, may be inserted through the crater of the mountain, and will be sure to destroy the life of the varmint, whose contents may be squeezed out, or he may be left to depart peaceomeal. Puncturing with a narrow, pointed hot iron, will have the same effect, but is apt to cause more pain to the cow. Unless these larvæ of the insect *æstrus bovis* are present in large quantities, they are usually not of any importance to the well-doing of cattle.

☞ Many a fine horse is ruined by driving him too fast immediately after a hearty meal. If the journey must be resumed without delay, the horse should be driven very slowly for a half hour or more, when the speed may be safely increased. A good horse is too valuable an animal to ruin by injudicious haste.

Questions & Answers.

HUNGARIAN—CORN—SQUASHES.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

I always put confidence in the *Ploughman*, and I want to ask a few questions.

1st. Do you think Hungarian hay improves by keeping it till towards spring, or would you feed it out first, supposing you wanted to feed about one-third Hungarian and two-thirds common hay?

2d. I have a kind of corn which I esteem very highly. I have raised it for twenty-five years, perhaps more, and I think by always saving the very best for seed it has improved very much; but for the last two or three years I have had a good deal of smutty corn in the field. Do you think I can do anything to prevent the smut?

3d. I find it almost impossible to raise any Marrow or Hubbard Squashes, for the reason that the vines all die, generally after they have run about five or six feet on the ground. What is the cause, and is there a remedy? No trouble with crookneck.

4th. Do you think cabbage seed raised from good, well-preserved cabbage stumps is as good to raise cabbages from as that raised from the whole head? J. M.

Canton, Mass.

1. We do not believe that Hungarian hay improves by keeping, and would prefer to feed it out gradually, mixed with other hay.

2. The best information on smut, rust, &c., is Prof. Farlow's lecture, in Flint's Report of 1877, page 218.

3. You will see the cause described in the new Report for 1878 just issued, page 26.

4. No! We believe it is settled that seed raised from stumps will deteriorate, and we do not think a careful breeder of seeds would adopt that method.—[Ed.

THE WEST AND SOUTHWEST.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

I write you these few lines hoping to receive an answer through the *Ploughman*. Hearing and reading a great deal about the western and southwestern States as to the advantages and disadvantages of each, one writer contradicting another, etc., I do not exactly know what to think. Which of all the western and southwestern States are, in your opinion, the most healthful, and have the best advantages for stock-raising and agricultural pursuits? I will be very grateful for your opinion on this subject.

Yours respectfully, SUBSCRIBER.

North Cambridge, March 3d, 1879.

If we were intending to locate on a farm at the West we should probably prefer Iowa or eastern Kansas. Land is a little higher there than in Nebraska and Minnesota, but it is a somewhat older community, and its institutions are well established. No one can travel through Iowa without coming to the conclusion that it is the "garden of the world," so far as farming operations are concerned. There are many lands in eastern Kansas that are to be had at low prices, and so there are in southeastern Nebraska. Minnesota is rapidly settling up. It is farther north and the winters are rather severe, but it is a little less liable to droughts.—[Ed.

CHLOROFORMING ANIMALS.

[Prairie Farmer.]

In all operations, lasting any length of time, humanity demands the use of an anæsthetic, not only in the case of the horse, but in all our domestic animals. Besides, many delicate operations can be easily and securely performed when perfect quiet is demanded of the patient, as in operation upon the eye, within the mouth, gullet, windpipe, or other parts of the head, as well as the body and limbs. The safe administration of chloroform to the lower animals consists in allowing an equal proportion of atmospheric air with the vapor of the anæsthetic. If this is denied in the process, death ensues either from paralysis of the heart, coma, or apoplexy, or closure of the glottis by muscular spasm. Anæsthetics should not be used in case where disease of the heart and brain is known to exist, or to animals affected with degeneration of the lungs. As most animals become completely wild, when the effects of the inhalation commences to act upon the brain, it will become necessary, especially in the case of the horse or the ox, to first have them secured, and preferably in a recumbent position, so that they can not get loose. A convenient and inexpensive mode of administering chloroform to the horse or other animals consists in holding a sponge saturated with the fluid to one of the nostrils. Care should be taken to guard the skin of the nose and lips from its irritating properties, by smearing these parts with oil or glycerine. At the commencement the sponge should be held at a small distance from the nose. As the animal gets more and more under the influence, it should be approached to the nose, but it is imperatively necessary that there should be a free admission of atmospheric air. In order to confine the vapors, a light cloth should be thrown loosely over the hands of the operator at the beginning. From two to four ounces of chloroform are generally sufficient, unless the operation to be performed is of a protracted nature. The size of sponge to be used for the larger animals should not be smaller than two closed fists. It should be soft and slightly moist from being squeezed with clean cold water, and it will be sufficient to pour about two ounces of chloroform on it to begin with. So soon as the animal allows a finger to be placed upon the eyeball without moving the eyelids, the operation is to be proceeded with as dexterously as possible, during which an assistant should hold the sponge, and only apply it from time to time, to keep up the required insensibility. Really, the administration of the anæsthetic should form the whole duty of one person, who must also carefully watch the pulse and the respiration. If the breathing becomes feeble and particularly the inspirations loud, or there are premonitory signs of suffocation, etc., the sponge must be quickly withdrawn.

PLAN OF A KITCHEN.

[Country Gentleman.]

In the first place there should be plenty of windows, and the sun should have free entrance through them, excepting through the dog-days, for light and fresh air are the chief essentials for good health in parlor and kitchen. Good drainage should also be provided; and I would attend as closely to the ventilation of the kitchen as of a sleeping-room. No foul air or sewer gas should find an entrance. Then I would have a large circular device—an immense funnel—suspended over the cooking stove, with a pipe in the centre leading to the top of the house, to carry off all the disagreeable odors which the process of cooking generates. However savory and agreeable they may be at first, they soon grow rank, and are apt to detract from the edge of one's appetite. This pipe can be arranged so as to pass through the servants' room, and help to make it comfortable in the cold weather. I would have a good-sized sink, with a permanent soap-stone washdish set into it. A drain pipe should open out of it with a strainer affixed. There should be various closets and cupboards arranged conveniently. There should also be several small drawers, as well as large ones, in the pantry, to contain the numerous articles required in cooking, and also a place for everything, and everything kept in place.

☞ Germany exported last year, in the eleven months ending with November, over 11,775,000 bushels of potatoes.

ROSE CULTURE.

BY WILLIAM C. STRONG.

[*Address at the Massachusetts Horticultural Rooms, Saturday, March* 8.]

[Transcript's Report.]

Mr. Strong commenced by speaking of the acknowledged pre-eminence of the rose as queen of the floral kingdom, while amidst the great diversity of fruits we cannot select any one and crown it king. Yet he thought the culture of the rose not as extended as it should be, and the gardens of New England not relatively as well supplied with roses as in the days of our fathers. The knowledge of the vast advance in hybrid roses during the past thirty years has hardly extended beyond the trade. Though the exhibition of roses has been coeval with the existence of horticultural societies, it was not until 1857 that the first national rose show was held in England, the prize money (£156) being raised by subscription. Now there are at least fourteen national rose shows held in England and Scotland, at which over £3000 of prize money is distributed, besides a vast number of local shows. The result is that a general public interest is awakened, and the land is full of roses of marvellous and constantly increasing beauty. It is calculated that the annual sale of rose plants is from two to three millions, almost entirely for home consumption. During the last thirteen years there have been over six hundred new French roses and over fifty English seedlings introduced. In the rose election list for 1877 the oldest variety named in the list of twelve best is the Charles Lefebvre, which had only attained the age of sixteen years. In the first twenty-four varieties, more than half are under ten years, and Senateur Vaisse, introduced in 1859, is senior. In a list of seventy-three varieties, every one, excepting the three tea roses, Souvenir d'un Ami (1846), Gloire de Dijon (1853), and Souvenir d'Elise (1855), has been introduced within twenty years. Not a solitary hybrid perpetual rose was in existence twenty years before the day of exhibition, the oldest, Victor Verdier, having been introduced in 1859.

Undoubtedly the English rose exhibitions are at present the finest in the world. The French, though producing many more novelties, are not up in the exhibitions. As a single illustration of culture, at the Crystal Palace rose-show, June, 1877, one collection of forty-eight roses in pots is described as standing from five to seven feet in height, and as many feet through, with very healthy foliage down to the rim, each having from one hundred to two hundred and fifty perfect blooms. It is no chance work that wins a prize or secures honorable mention at such a show. From the outset the closest attention must be paid to the character and preparation of the soil, the selection of stocks, the feeding with well-ripened compost, the careful pruning in spring, the disbudding out in May and June, the frequent syringing of the foliage in dry weather, and the judicious selection and arrangement of the blooms to obtain harmony and contrasts in the shades of color.

To the ever-recurring question, "What are the best varieties?" the answer of the college professor to the question, "Who are your best men?" is a good one—"Ah, that depends on what you want them for." With all the diversity in form and habit of the rose, each phase has its value, and some particular place which it can fill better than any other. And here it is well to bear in mind that the lists made out with so much care are generally for a particular purpose, which governs the judgment. The English selection list does not include the General Jacqueminot, yet for certain purposes there is not a more useful or a more superb rose in form, color and pose than this cashiered general. But if you ask for a wide spread, full, expanded exhibition bloom, he quietly informs you that that is not his style. The old Agrippina, or Capucine Superieure, is superior to a host of bedding plants. Every planter should consider what he wants and select accordingly. If you have a pillar or porch to cover, plant the Baltimore Belle, or Queen, or the new climbing Jules Margottin. If you want a profusion of buds throughout the summer, select the teas and ever-blooming class. The mosses all know and love, as the most exquisitely beautiful things in the wide creation of matter. If you fancy the bright golden yellow of the Persian rose, get it in spite of the opinion of judges. For pot culture General Jacqueminot, Captain Christy and Baroness Rothschild are recommended. For exhibition roses, the Hippolyte Jamain and Baron de Bonstettin rank very low in England, but are favorites here. The best blooms, in nine cases out of ten, will come from buds inserted the August previous in the brier or Manetti stock.

The discussion which followed the reading of the essay was opened by Marshall P. Wilder, who confirmed Mr. Strong's remarks on the adaptation of roses to the particular purpose for which they are wanted. Mr. Wilder said that he disliked roses with reflex petals, and always felt as if he wanted to pull them off. He asked if there was any rose which was so gorgeous and bore travel so well as Marechal Niel.

Mr. Strong replied that there was not, but it is a most rampant grower and requires age, and to have its roots confined, in order to flower well. He exhibited a bud of Cornelia Cook, which, though very beautiful, does not flower freely, and cannot be transported to New York.

E. W. Wood thought our scorching suns less favorable to out-door rose culture than the English climate, but in forcing roses we have the advantage. He had found Marechal Niel most successful and profitable for forcing. Its bloom is much more continuous than that of climbing Devonienais.

Mr. Strong said the excess of sunlight could be obviated by shading, but sometimes we want all the sun.

Mr. Wood thought the advantage of the English climate was not merely that the direct rays of the sun are less fierce, but that there is more moisture in the atmosphere.

James Barratt spoke of his astonishment at seeing so many fine plants of Marechal Niel at Mr. Strong's, and of two plants at Hovey & Co's, which were brought to flower profusely by removing the soil around the roots and filling with crocks.

M. H. Merriam thought roses succeeded best in a moist atmosphere. At the city of Paramaribo, in Surinam, where the annual rainfall, according to Government charts, is twenty-eight *feet*, he had seen them growing with a luxuriance, and flowering with a profusion which he had never witnessed elsewhere.

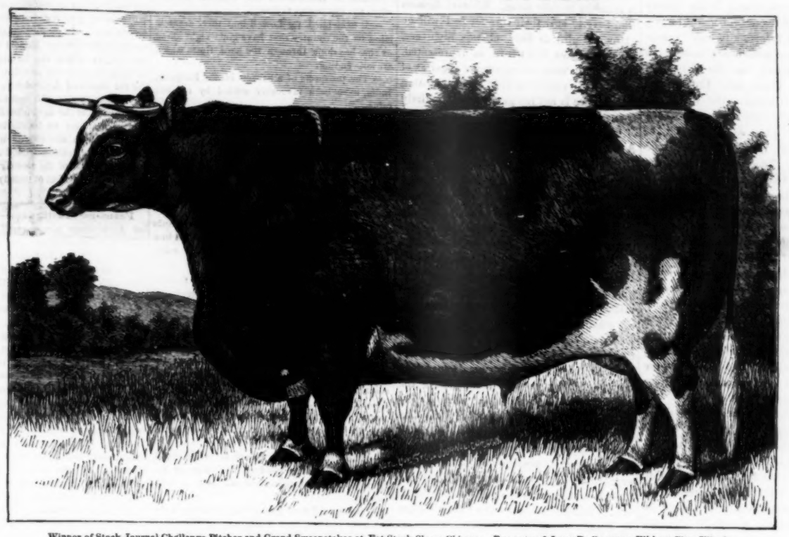
ANIMAL REFUSE AS MANURE.

[Farmer's Advocate.]

Attention is being directed to the importance of torrefied animal refuse, such as bones, horns, leather clippings, hair, woolen rags, blood, &c. By special contrivances these matters are so scorched as to retain their organic richness, though reduced to a state of powder. This powder ferments—in other terms, dissolves—easily and gradually; the phosphates are assimilated with facility, and the humus in the soil economized. This torrefied refuse peculiarly favors a large return per acre of beet, in addition to the juice being markedly rich in sugar, because less alkaline salts or nitrogenous matters are present. Beets thus raised have been sold as high as twenty-four francs the ton, or six francs more than usual rates. It is admitted that the manure ensures the uniform germination of the seeds in a remarkable manner, and keeps off insects, owing to the offensive odor of the compound. It is most efficacious when employed in moist weather, autumn or spring.

☞ France produced, in the year ending September last, the enormous amount of over 800,000,000 pounds of beet root sugar in that country, and all successful.

GRADE SHORT-HORN STEER.



Winner of Stock Journal Challenge Pitcher and Grand Sweepstakes at Fat Stock Show, Chicago. Property of JOHN D. GILLETT, Elkhart City, Illinois.

The most noteworthy animal in the Fat Cattle Show at Chicago, was the high-grade three-year-old Shorthorn shown by Mr. Gillett. This steer received the unanimous suffrages of all the members of all the committees for *best three-year old grade—best three-year-old of any breed—the grand sweepstakes for best beast of the show, of* $200, and *The Stock Journal Challenge Cup*, value $125, for *best beef animal of any age*. This steer was a red-and-white, with white face; and it is worthy of especial remark that *he had never been under shelter an hour in his life until he arrived at the exhibition*; neither had he ever eaten any food whatever excepting corn (in the ear or shelled) hay, and grass, and, during the last month or two, an occasional feed of oats. He ran on grass or in the stock fields with many other steers of the same age until about the 1st of November, some thirteen months prior to this show. At that time Mr. G. commenced feeding corn—about one-third of a bushel of corn in the ear to each steer for the first three months, and then about a half-bushel per day per steer until May, when they were again turned to grass. Feed boxes were placed in the pastures and supplied daily with corn in the ear. During the last few months of feeding, Mr. G. gives an occasional ration of oats, but he never uses ground or cut feed, and never stables his stock. This prize steer had only such treatment as Mr. G. usually gives his steers of the same age; and he estimates the amount of grain eaten by him, from birth up to the date of the show, at about 150 bushels.

Stock Department.

CALVES.

[American Agriculturist.]

A calf that is infested with vermin, may be known by its rough coat covered with ticks. The young animals should be freed from these pests at once. A mixture of lard and sulphur rubbed along the spine and on the brisket will be effective; and a dose of a tablespoonful of sulphur and molasses, once a day for a week, will help greatly to drive away lice and prevent disease.

"*Black-leg*" in *Calves* is frequent just now. It mainly affects the best kept animals. To prevent it, give the sulphur and molasses, and feed no meal. To reduce the condition gradually is an effective preventive. Medicines come too late in this disease, which is almost surely fatal at this season.

SUFFERING CATTLE.

[Cheyenne (Colorado) Leader.]

The cattle grazing region of central and western Nebraska has been covered with snow since the first of February to the depth of twelve or fourteen inches, and the cattle in those sections are fast passing into a starving condition, owing to their inability to get at the grass which is buried beneath the snow. When the snow fell it was heavy and damp, and soon became packed and slightly crusted so that it would not drift like the ordinary light and dry snow which usually falls in that region. The Omaha papers say the cattle men are becoming somewhat alarmed for the safety of their stock, and many of them fear that unless the snow disappears within the next ten days they will lose at least fifty per cent. of their cattle. The stock in that section of the country lying between the two Platte rivers are in the worst condition, and many of them now are beginning to die. These cattle are drifting down toward the junction of the two Platte rivers, many of them having come a distance of 140 miles. They are all in a famishing condition. About 12,000 head have been driven across the South Platte where there is considerable tall grass standing above the snow, and an effort will be made to get them all over as fast as possible. The cattle north of the North Platte and south of the South Platte are as yet in a fair condition.

Porcine.

A CURE FOR HOG CHOLERA

The *Lewiston Gazette*, published in Fulton county, Ill., contains the following:

Every paper in the United States ought occasionally to keep the fact before its readers that burnt corn is a certain and speedy cure for hog cholera. The best way is to make a pile of corn on the cobs, effectually scorch it, and then give the affected hogs free access to it. This remedy was discovered by E. E. Locke, at the time his distillery was burnt in this county, together with a large lot of store corn, which was so much injured as to be unfit for use, and was hauled out and greedily eaten by the hogs, several of which were dying daily. After the second day not a single hog was lost, and the disease entirely disappeared. The remedy has been tried in a number of cases since and never failed.

FREQUENT CAUSES OF DISEASE IN PIGS.

[National Live Stock Journal.]

The diseases which affect these animals generally originate from their being kept in loathsome and uncomfortable situations, inhaling the most infectious exhalations, and being at one time stinted with food, and at another fed to the extreme. The hog, although wallowing in the filthiest mire, sometimes feeding upon the most disgusting kind of food, both animal and vegetable, and often when in a decomposed state, does not always do so with impunity. We are convinced that many animals of this class are annually lost from the effects of improper food, or from living in an atmosphere surcharged with poisonous effluvia, the product of animal or vegetable decomposition; and we think that owners of pigs often make great mistakes in not paying more attention to the quality of their food and condition of their lodgings. Decomposing substances, both animal and vegetable, grain that has undergone a change from long keeping or exposure to damp, and which is loaded, perhaps, with the sporules of poisonous fungi, brine from the meat tub—these and other similar substances are often given to pigs as food, and in many instances have been known to cause great losses. Much that we have seen convinces us of the necessity of more attention being paid to the quality of the food of these animals than is generally being done, and also to the nature of their lodgings, as well as the air they breathe. As a rule, we believe that old and strong hogs are not so easily affected by improper food as young ones, and we have sometimes known sows to appear in perfect health when suckling their pigs, but yet to have their milk so altered in quality from the effect of bad food as to destroy the pigs.

☞ The recent rains in California have caused the heart of the husbandman to rejoice.

The Poultry Interest.

DISEASE IN FOWL.

[Correspondence Country Gentleman.]

There is no doubt in my mind but that all disease in poultry is directly caused by their having access to dirty or stagnant water. By the latter term reference is made to bilge water, artificially made, *not* the stagnant pools caused by imperfect drainage, the result of large quantities of water collected from rains that find no outlet and so must disappear by natural evaporation. This natural stagnant water, although it does not exactly tend to health, does not necessarily cause disease. But, on the other hand, let me see a lot of fowl full of disease and my first impulse will be to look behind the *kitchen door* for a regular above-ground cesspool of dish-water, floor scrubbing, bilge filth and other horrible rubbish collected as thoroughly as though it had been done intentionally. There I find what the fowls drink and what causes the glands of their mouth to fill up with what ultimately causes distemper, and later on "chicken cholera." Do not let yourself be deceived into the idea that your fowls will look for the clean fresh water you *may* have supplied for their convenience, for they will not. First come, first served is their motto. It stands to reason that the latter is true, for happen what will the chickens will run behind the house looking for crumbs and other solid matter continually swept out of any house; and while at this they naturally get dry and drink of that which first offers itself, which is kitchen bilge water, the most offensive thing in the world for any living thing to swallow. Therefore, take my advice and either build a large receiving cesspool for this necessary refuse, or else throw it out in such a manner that it instantly disappears from view and cannot be reached by any living scavenger, your own nasal organs included.

The above mentioned cesspool not only answers this purpose, but it is also a valuable thing in connection with a kitchen garden, using the contents to water vegetables in dry weather and enrich the soil at all times. I remember distinctly, in this connection, that having some six thousand celery plants set out one season which proved very dry, my neighbors spoke with regrets that I should lose so much; but when studying the matter over pretty thoroughly I all at once bethought me of my large receiving kitchen and laundry cesspool, and at once two men were started with a water-barrel on wheels to haul this greasy stuff and water the celery. Being followed by still another man to cover up the wet earth with some dry soil to keep it from baking hard with the hot sun that was burning everything to cinders. Now, what can be deducted from this, except that you will certainly lose nothing except a little first cost, or a little extra trouble in throwing out your kitchen water.

It is not necessary that I should speak of the food best adapted to the needs of fowl, for that is pretty generally understood to be a great variety of heating food in cold weather, and the reverse, or cooling food in summer, remembering that lime and gravel in some shape is positively indispensable to health and proper digestion. Oyster shells, finely broken, are best when placed beside a keen, sharp gravel. Round pebbles are not the thing; they must be sharp and irregular, so that they are capable of assisting the digestion.

Horticulture.

PLANTING GRAPE VINES.

[Germantown Telegraph.]

One would suppose that so simple a thing as planting a grape-vine would not need writing about; and yet the number of people inquiring "How shall we plant?" is so great that a few words to these inquirers may well be pardoned by those who think they already know enough about the matter. The rule is to plant the roots shallow. If they are long when we have to transplant them, instead of setting them deep we lay them along about four or five inches beneath the surface. It is of course very necessary to press the soil very hard and firm over the roots; that is if the earth is tolerably dry, though in truth no vine should be planted except the earth is in this good condition.

It is very useful in planting a grape-vine to cut it closely in. Unless the last year's growth be very vigorous it may be almost all cut away. This is the way to get a good strong cane for bearing next year, which is the most that one ought to expect a vine to do. "Immediate bearing" is a delusion and a snare. Many a person spends a dollar or a half dollar extra on a vine which he is told by the seller will "bear this year," when for that amount of money he could buy treble the quantity of grapes it will bear for him, even if it bears at all. Still we like to plant good strong healthy grapes. The little crow-quills which come out as rare grapes at high prices, seldom give much satisfaction. Indeed, it is more than likely that the immense failures which generally follow all these introductions are as much owing to the way their propagation is forced, as to any inherent inability in the varieties to become adapted to soils and climates.

☞ The wheat crop in Virginia and Alabama is said to be seriously injured.

The Sheepfold.

RULES FOR THE CARE OF SHEEP.

[Spirit of Kansas.]

The following good rules for the care of sheep we find floating round without credit. The writer evidently understands how to take care of sheep, and every farmer who keeps sheep—as every farmer should, at least a few—ought to paste these simple rules upon his stable door, that himself and hands may see them often, and adhere to them strictly:

Keep the sheep dry under foot with litter—is even more necessary than roofing them. Never let them stand or lie in mud or snow.

Take up lamb bucks early in summer and keep them up until December, when they may be turned out.

Remove the lower bars as the sheep enter or leave a yard, thus avoiding broken limbs. Count them every day.

Begin graining with the greatest care, and use the smallest quantity first.

If a ewe loses a lamb, milk daily a few days and mix a little alum with her salt.

Let no hogs eat with sheep.

In weaning lambs, use a little mill feed.

Never frighten sheep if you can avoid it. Sow rye for weak ones in cold weather.

In the fall separate the weak, thin or sick from the strong, and give extra care.

If one is hurt, catch at once; wash the wound; if in fly time apply spirits of turpentine daily; always wash with something healing. Splinter broken limbs tightly, loosening as the limb swells.

Keep a number of good bells on them.

Don't let them spoil wool with burs.

Cut tag locks early in spring.

For scours give pulverized alum in wheat bran. Prevent by taking great care in changing dry for green feed.

If lame, examine feet, clean out the hoofs; pare hoof, if unsound, and apply tobacco boiled with blue vitroil, in a little water.

If the weather is not too cold, shear at once sheep beginning to shed, and carefully save pelts of those that die.

Have some good book on sheep to refer to. It will put money in thy purse.

SHEEP HUSBANDRY.

[Corr. Kansas Farmer.]

I will give you a history of two flocks that I have had a little experience with since the first of October. In the first place no man need think he can move sheep from the older States into this new country on to the wild feed, and have them do well without giving them something to regulate the system, generally. About the first of October A. R. Heath of Marion, Indiana, solicited my aid and assistance to prescribe, look after and assist him in disposing of a flock of sheep that were driven in May last from Michigan. I found them in a very thin condition, showing all symptoms of the disease commonly called stretches, running at the nose, etc. Prairie grass killed by frost had dried up. About seventy already dead and missing, and many more looking as though they would soon be among those that were not. About four weeks' time placed them in other hands. Two of my neighbors have one-half of the flock. One has not lost a sheep; the other reports the loss of two. The other half reported doing well, with none dead.

About the time these were disposed of an old acquaintance from Michigan who had imported a flock from Wisconsin of 1,500 very fine, Spanish Merino ewes, applied for assistance, I being here alone waiting for the arrival of my family. I agreed to go and look after the flock. I found them in so poor condition that I felt unwilling to pay any further attention to them; could give no encouragement of success, from the fact that we had nothing but prairie hay and corn to feed. Could we have had good clover hay I should have had some hopes; but concluded to make the effort, the owner saying that anything that I wanted that was within the bounds of reason, should be supplied. The first and only article outside of corn, hay and water that was used, was fifty pounds each of copperas, resin, sulphur, and twenty-five pounds of saltpetre, thoroughly pulverized, and then mixed this medicine with salt about one-eighth part to seven of salt, allowing the sheep free access to the mixture. This is a sure remedy as well as a preventive for the stretches in sheep. I have used it for the last thirty years with success. The above mentioned flock of sheep can be seen in this county, in a very fine condition, considering the situation they were in the first of November. There is a great deal of trouble in starting a flock of poor sheep to thriving and preventing their losing wool. If this remedy is given and commence feeding moderately with grain, they will lose no wool; and if troubled with foot rot this will cleanse the blood and system, and try the use of the proper remedies on the feet, you will find you can make a successful cure. What we learn from experience we are not afraid of being successfully contradicted in. This I have learned from handling 100 to 3,000 sheep a year, for the past thirty years.

☞ Why do farmers, as a rule, fail to have good gardens? Because they work without system or forethought. To succeed, it is necessary to have a plan and to follow it.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

The Apiary.

THE MERITS OF DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF BEES.

Had means been at my command, I would years ago have been in the native lands of some of the exotic races and species which I shall notice in this article, and then I would not to-day, be obliged to present to you merely the views of our apiarian cousins in the Old World, and information derived from the accounts of travellers who are not bee-culturists, and therefore give very meagre reports. These accounts, however, allowing a margin for their inaccuracies, still lead us to believe that in many parts of the East there are varieties and species of bees distinct from our own, and at the same time, more valuable than any bees we have yet cultivated.

THE GERMAN OR COMMON BEE.

This is our common black bee, with which all are familiar. In the early settlement of this country it was introduced from Europe. I merely mention this bee because it is with this and

THE ITALIAN RACE

that we must compare all foreign races. Of the Italians I need to say but little, for all bee keepers up with the times recognize their superiority over our common black or brown bees. What a large part of the progress apiculture has made in the last eighteen years is due to their introduction! Who can say but that equally great results will come from the introduction of some of the races lately noticed? Relying upon the correctness, in the main, of the testimony I have been able to obtain concerning some Eastern races and species of bees, I firmly believe similar results would follow their introduction.

THE EGYPTIAN BEE.

Having experienced, on several occasions, the effect of the wrath exhibited by Egyptian bees, even when well treated, and which exceeded that shown by any hybrid Italian and black bees, I cannot recommend them in any way except that they are diligent workers and prolific breeders; yet I do not think they equal in these respects our gentle Italians.

CARNIOLAN BEES.

In their inclination to swarm these bees are only second to the heath bees. Coming from Carniola in the southwestern part of Austria, near the Adriatic, they are distinguished for their gentleness and the ease with which they can be subdued at all times. They may be recommended especially to beginners or such as experience serious results from stings. In some provinces of Central Europe the honey harvest was very poor in 1875, and common and Italian bees failed to secure enough honey for winter, while pure and hybrid Carniolans gave quite a surplus, under the same conditions. Several eminent bee-keepers in Europe, who have bred these bees, say they excel the common bees in every respect.

HUNGARIAN BEE.

The bees among the mountains of Northern Hungary and those found in Banat, a Southern province, are probably the same. They have quite black, with somewhat longer bodies than our common bees—the abdomen rather clumsier, and are covered with light gray hair. The colonies have a greater inclination to swarm than have the common bees, the queens are more prolific, the bees are livelier in their work, and show themselves somewhat less susceptible to severe weather than the common bees, hence they have wintered well further north than Hungary. They are easily handled, and are very industrious. In 1875 they were next to the Carniolans, and ahead of the common and Italian bees, as honey gatherers in Central Europe. A bee-keeper who tried them first in 1862, said, in 1875: "This bee is more industrious and persevering in collecting honey than our native bees, and deserves the preference."

In the February number of the *National Live Stock Journal*, it is stated in confirmation of what the writer said in late numbers of the *Ploughman*, concerning Cross-breds or grade stock, that the impression is well-nigh universal among practical farmers and feeders of cattle, that cross breds or grades are more profitable than thoroughbreds of any kind; and for an opinion so generally entertained and so deeply rooted among practical men there must be substantial foundation. The beef that tops the English market is almost invariably that of cross

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN AND NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.--BOSTON, SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1879.

that for every purpose, except that of reproduction, the high grade, or cross-bred animal is quite frequently the equal, if not the superior, of its thoroughbred ancestry [for milk, work and beef.]

The reason why veal is so much more largely used in France than in Great Britain is, that it is so much better. If veal in England and the United States was as tender, juicy and delicious as in France, it would meet with as much favor as in the former country. There will be progress in this direction when farmers learn that it pays better to fat calves than to keep them until they are two or three years old. In France veal calves offer striking examples of early maturity; at the age of three months, they weigh from 425 to 450 pounds apiece; but the average, under good management in veal-producing districts, may be taken at 330 pounds at that age, and they sell at from £9 to £15; and they give from 220 to 280 pounds of clean meat to the butcher, besides offal. These calves are worth as much money at three months old as they would be at two years old if kept in the ordinary way, and pay better than if put up to fatten two years onger.

The holders of small farms in France often keep cows, and use the milk for fattening calves, which they buy when a week old. With six or seven cows, twenty calves may be fattened for market in the year. The flesh is kept white by feeding the calves on nothing but milk, of which they take about six quarts a day the first few days; they are muzzled to prevent their eating anything else, they being kept, meanwhile, in a darkened stable and comfortably warm. At the end of two months many rearers give them from two to six eggs a day each, when they are about ready for market, and then they weigh from 250 to 350 pounds each. There is no better veal than that which is produced by this method, which was introduced into France by Cardinal Mazarin, who had a dairy farm in Vincennes, and reared calves upon milk, according to the Roman fashion. Large numbers of calves are thus fattened for the Paris market, veal there being regarded as one of the greatest delicacies for the table.

Thus has the writer presented some important considerations for farmers and graziers in connection with the necessity of studying the art of early maturity as connected with manufacturing beef and veal at a profit on the farm. When such distinguished breeders of neighboreds and grades as the Messrs. Brown & Gillett, and such noted, practical beef makers, as they are known to be, state, that there is more profit in sending beef animals to market when they are two years old or younger, than when three years old and upwards, there can be little or no advantage in keeping steers till they are three or four years old and upwards unless they be kept as manure machines. L. W.

The Ploughman.

BOSTON, SATURDAY, MAR. 15, 1879

The contest over the speakership becomes more interesting as the time draws near for the meeting of Congress in extra session.

New York's last fever is over the four men walking match, and Boston is catching the same fever as fast as she can.

A project is on foot for laying a railroad on the towpath of the James River and Kanawha Canal, which has been purchased by a company of capitalists for two million dollars.

The British ship Turkish Empire left St John, N. B., on Thursday of last week, was caught the same evening in the bay by a severe snow-storm, and soon after went to pieces on the rocks on Grand Menam.

An outrage by Rhode Island detectives is mentioned, a citizen of Providence having been seized and rushed across the bridge at Central Falls into Massachusetts, where another detective took him in charge.

A monster excursion from Washington to San Francisco is projected, to receive and welcome ex-President Grant on his return home from his trip around the world. It is to come off, if at all, about the 1st. of August next.

An official in India writes home to his Government in England that the people of Cashmere are driving off from famine like flies, and that the province threatens to be depopulated at the present death-rate, by the end of the year.

A petition to Secretary Evarts is circulating in New York among the representatives of railroads, bankers, shippers, and all interested in the cattle export trade, protesting against the British embargo upon the importation of American cattle.

THE SPRING HARBINGER.

The welcome little blue-bird is fast coming back to all parts of New England, and his cheery note, so full of promise and hope, is to be heard in the gardens and fields again. There is scarcely a man or a child that on hearing this note of early spring does not feel a release of the currents of the Winter sluggishness and a sudden brightening of all his feelings. So little a thing is able, through the chain of association with which our beings are closely bound up, to change in a moment the whole current of our feelings and impart a brightness and lightness to our thoughts. There is no single voice heard in the air at this season that carries with it such suggestions of real joy. It is a delightful prophecy of what we are all eager to reach,—running streams, green grass, bursting leaves, reviving suns, and renewed life. These are something to satisfy the desires that slumber in every human heart. To the inhabitant of New England their voice emits its cheery sound with a pleasanter effect because of the prolongation of our winters and the encouragements we are so ready to welcome of a returning season of outdoor enjoyment. The blue-bird unlocks the door of winter and lets it out.

The home in the country seems to take on a new aspect under the influence of its song in these days of deep blue skies and brighter sunshine. The coming of the blue-bird is associated in the juvenile mind with the flow of the sap in the rock-maples, the deepening of the colors in the grass under the fences and walls, the greener look of the branches of the apple-trees, and the finding of sky-blue eggs in the hollows of the trees that stand in the orchard. The windows of home are opened oftener as his song increases, if only to let the cheery, musical strains flow in through the rooms so long shut up to Winter. New spirits begin to animate all, and one summons the other to come and listen to the welcome song. It means that Spring is here, and that means more than tongue can all at once express. Who does not fling forth a sincere welcome from his heart to the new season? The invalid is no less eager to greet its coming than the one who will clamber the hills and penetrate to the still unclothed woods. Spring is the one thing that is universally wished for, and the little blue-bird brings it with his cheery note and the cerulean hue of his wings. And so he is named the Harbinger, and he is every one's honest friend.

A RIGOROUS TRAMP LAW.

The lower branch of the Connecticut Legislature has passed by an overwhelming majority a law for the effectual relief of that State from the scourge of tramping, which it might prove difficult of execution. Inasmuch as all the adjoining States have tramp laws, it became necessary for Connecticut to protect herself from the ravages of this pestiferous fraternity. The present law has been found worse than nothing. It only provides that tramps might be required to work in return for their food and lodging, and in case of refusal that they could be arrested and imprisoned. The fact was, that householders had no work for tramps to do, and besides that did not want them around. So the new bill which has passed the House by such a strong vote provides, in order to keep tramps out of the State altogether, that every person begging, or strolling through the country living on alms, shall be regarded as a tramp and be sent to the State Prison for two years! And it further provides that entering dwellings, or kindling fires by the roadside or on private premises, the carrying of dangerous weapons, and malicious injury to property, shall be offences punishable by more severe penalties, even to a five years imprisonment. Towns are authorized by the bill to appoint special officers to hunt tramps. It is evident that Connecticut means to wholly rid herself of this infliction.

"BANKS AND BROKERS."

The large number of newspapers which have published in whole or in part the address of Hon. Daniel Needham, upon the "National Outlook" originally published in the *Ploughman*, and the general discussion awakened by the same leads us to make the following suggestions upon that feature of the address which refers to Banks and Brokers,—a perfectly satisfactory explanation of the reasons for the immense losses which are to be encountered in the history of trade. Colonel Needham bases it largely on the practise of resorting to note brokers for pecuniary accommodation instead of applying as formerly to the banks of discount direct. These note brokers are the middlemen between the merchants or the manufacturers and the banks. They grasp the chief part of the profit of discounting while taking none of the risks of loss. That they put upon the banks which are accommodating enough to let them have the money. Although the paper originally put out may have represented only legitimate business, yet with a sudden change of trade conditions, an unexpected depreciation of values, or a trying exigency of any kind, the temptation to make paper that will sell quick is very strong; and being for that very reason widely scattered instead of held in well-known hands as it would be under sound conditions of trade and a jealous care for individual credit, no knowledge of it is possible to be had and the banks become the losers because they have advanced their money blindly.

One of the worst features of this business is that no bank can tell what part of the paper it has advanced on is legitimate business paper and what is merely accommodation paper. It is the firm opinion of Col. Needham that the practise of note-broking for merchants and manufacturers should be abolished. About the possibility of abolition, he says there need be no serious question. The banks have it in their power to do it themselves. They can easily restore the old and safe system of direct bank discount. There need only be concerted action among them, and in a single month the desired result could be accomplished. A meeting of the bank Presidents, by simply voting to discount paper in the old legitimate way, would at once bring it about. The note-brokers themselves are not a class that is possessed of capital. They are obliged to rely on the banks for what they are enabled to feed out to their customers. So that the very banks which suffer from the losses referred to are the ones which supply the capital for the note-brokers to work upon. It would be absurd, therefore, on the face of it, to assert that the banks have not the remedy entirely in their own hands.

The fundamental security which the banks would have in doing business directly with borrowers, instead of indirectly through brokers, or middlemen, consists in the important fact that they make it their business to know of the personal standing of their customers; not only their business but their general appearance, which includes their habits of living, their scale of expenditure, and their method of doing business. If a man seeks to borrow money, the party offering to lend it has an undoubted right to know all about the proponent's pecuniary condition. Some men affect to regard it as spying, and in fact little less than tyranny, for a body of bank directors to investigate their condition when they apply to them for loans; but if they reflect a moment, they will see that it is only the same sort of inquiries which they would themselves make in relation to a person who should approach them on a similar errand. The habitual supervision thus exercised by bank officers over a business community would undeniably tend to check extravagances in trade and ruinous habits of speculation, and therefore bring matters back to a solid foundation and prevent the frequent recurrence of commercial disasters. Both sides would be favorably affected, the banks as well as business houses. There is abundant matter for serious thought in the foregoing, and the present is the most fitting time to bestow it on the subject.

SILVER AND ITS PRICE.

It has been said that it will be necessary that some new and exceptionally rich lodes of silver must be discovered in this country within the next two or three years, or there will be an inevitable appreciation of the price of that metal in the market. One thing appears to be generally conceded, namely: that the price of that metal cannot very well accede to the point at which it stood some nine years ago. The decline is represented to have exhausted itself. The fall in price altogether was from sixty-two to forty-seven pence an ounce, which was owing principally to the unprecedented yield of our own mines and the demonetization of silver by Germany. Our mines poured upon the market at the rate of eighty millions of dollars per annum for some three years, while the act of Germany added not less than twenty-five million dollars' worth yearly, for not less than six years. The yield of the American mines having now fallen off as the bullion returns show, and as the price of mining stocks likewise indicate, and Germany having not more than seventy-five million dollars' worth left to dispose of, while, on the other hand, the demand for silver for manufacturing purposes has immensely increased, the tendency is believed to be strongly in favor of a rise in the price, which may be looked for from this time forward.

BISMARCK IN TROUBLE.

There are sundry and several points on which Prince Bismarck is at open variance with the Reichstag, and on which he has indulged very recently in angry debate. He had a discussion with the Liberals only the other day on the protectionist issue, and in touching on the subject of smuggling cattle, took occasion to charge them with having made the penal code so mild that it protected criminals instead of citizens. Instantly it was replied to him that the first aim of the gagging law should be to control the language of the Government. The rejoinder of Bismarck naturally opened an angry and prolonged controversy. He twice left the House in a most ostentatious manner, in order to avoid hearing what it was disagreeable for him to hear, and also to show his contempt for the speakers.

It is reported that the body of the House chose to feel greatly amused by this childish demonstration, but the older members regarded it more seriously. It was the impression that Bismarck had the deliberate intention to provoke the Diet to a tumult, so that a dissolution might be hastily declared. Indeed, it is asserted that a dissolution is imminent. A crisis has arrived, which must terminate in one way or another very soon. Correspondents at Berlin unite in the opinion that a dissolution is liable to happen on any day. There is a difference between Bismarck and the free traders which cannot be bridged. And besides that, he is opposed to partial disarmament, and thus refuses to lighten the burden of taxation.

SUGAR BY A NEW PROCESS.

The Secretary of the British Legation at Washington has officially reported that a newly discovered process is about to be made public, by which sugar can be profitably made from Indian corn and sorghum. Sorghum will, by estimate, yield one thousand pounds of sugar per acre, while Indian corn will make about one-fifth less. Even from corn sugar a profit has been reported, by a Maine farmer, equal to that of thirty acres of wheat for a single acre of corn. This discovery is apparently made on authority, and in that case is of very great importance. The sugar of commerce is now made principally from sugar cane and beet root. The former demands a special soil and climate, while the cultivation of the sugar beet is considered a nice and difficult matter. But Indian corn and sorghum will grow anywhere in this country, and little or no skill is requisite to raise them. Western farmers who have to burn their corn for fuel will be extremely glad to hear of this discovery, which promises, if it wrove as represented, to become as large an axporter of sugar as of wheat. We only trust that this interesting intelligence is not too good to be entirely true.

A SYNOPSIS OF THE NEW POSTAL LAW.

The following synopsis of new legislation contained in the new post-office appropriation bill just passed, and which goes into effect May 1, has been prepared at the department for the information of the public: Mail matter is divided into four classes. First, written matter; second, periodical publications; third, miscellaneous printed matter; fourth, all matter not embraced in the other three classes, which is not in its form or nature liable to destroy, deface or otherwise damage the contents of mail bags, or harm the person of any one engaged in the postal service and is not above the weight provided by the law, which is declared not to be exceeding four pounds for each package thereof, except in case of single books weighing in excess of that amount. Congressional documents and matter emanating from any of the departments of the Government, or from the Smithsonian Institute. What is known as the Comstock law in regard to obscene publications is re-enacted, and such matter, as well as matter relating to lotteries, gift concerts, and fraudulent schemes or devices, are declared unmailable. Printed matter is defined to be reproduction upon paper by any process except that of handwriting of any forms of letters, characters, figures or images, or of any combination thereof, not having the character of actual and personal correspondence.

Mail matter of second class embraces all newspapers and other periodical publications which are issued at stated intervals, and as frequently as four times a year.

Publications of the second-class, when sent by the publisher thereof and from the office of publication, including sample copies, or when sent from a news agency to actual subscribers thereto, or to other news agents, shall be entitled to transmission through the mail at the uniform rate of two cents a pound or fraction thereof, such postage to be prepaid, as now provided by law. The free delivery of one copy to each actual subscriber residing in the county where the same are published, formerly merely confined to weekly papers, is extended to dailies and other matter of the second-class, except at offices of free delivery; when deposited for delivery by its carriers at such offices, weeklies are delivered free, but dailies and other publications of the second-class, when delivered by carriers at the post-offices where published pay the same rates as before.

The Walking Fever.—It is not a little singular what intense interest a modern walking match is capable of exciting. Such matches are going on now almost everywhere about us, but the one in New York during the current week absorbs the chief attention. Four men are engaged in it, including the already distinguished O'Leary. The walking has been done at Gilmore's Garden, and the crowd at the opening of the exhibition became so tumultuous with excitement that it was almost impossible for the police to keep it in subjection. Gate-money, so called, was plentiful in consequence of the very large attendance. The trainers are constantly on hand to look after their several charges, while even medical students appear on the ground to make special investigation into the condition of men who are subjecting their physical endurance to such a tremendous strain. The walk was a hundred and forty-two hours affair, and the man who comes out ahead is of course the winner of the belt and all the accompanying honors. Walking is the best kind of exercise, and one could wish it were more generally practised by both sexes, in town and country. The late venerable Richard H. Dana, the poet, who died recently at the age of ninety-four, was to the last an invererate pedestrian, and loved mostly to be out of doors.

The Agricultural College.—The Boston *Daily Advertiser* says: "If any measure for the relief of the Agricultural College is to pass the legislature this year, that which is expected from the joint committees on agriculture, education and military affairs has a few objections and as many merits as any which is likely to be devised. If the tenth of the dog fund, asked for by the committees, is given, it will constitute a permanent income and avoid the disagreeable frequency of visits by the college to the legislature! It will provide an ample sum for the needs o. owing principally to the unprecedented yield of our own mines and the demonetization of silver by Germany. Our mines poured upon the market at the rate of eighty millions of dollars per annum for some three years, while the act of Germany added not less than twenty-five million dollars' worth yearly, for not less than six years. The yield of the American mines having now fallen off as the bullion returns show, and as the price of mining stocks likewise indicate, and Germany having not more than seventy-five million dollars' worth left to dispose of, while, on the other hand, the demand for silver for manufacturing purposes has immensely increased, the tendency is believed to be strongly in favor of a rise in the price, which may be looked for from this time forward.

READ AND RUN.

— A herd of eighteen caribou was seen in the vicinity of Milinocett Lake, not long since. Caribou have of late years been very scarce in Maine, and it has been a long time since a large herd has been seen there.

— The London journals admit that their highest war talent is now needed in Africa.

— The story of Ingalls, the town treasurer of Candia, N. H., is one of the sort that implies the victim's own authorship of it. That is to say, he is believed to have bound and gagged himself, his accounts being faulty enough to supply the motive for such an enterprise.

— A private exhibition of Edison's invention was given on Thursday to representatives of the city press.

— The rate of taxation in Boston is to be higher this year than last. The estimated total valuation of the city is six hundred millions.

— The European powers will insist on the faithful execution of the Treaty of Berlin.

— Charles F. Stickney, of Fall River, passed through the city last week on Thursday, on his way to Concord Prison. Fall River is becoming well represented there.

— The Hebrews are very generally observing the Feast of Purim this year.

— No elevated railway for Boston.

— Sheriff Kimball, of Middlesex County, having died last week, the execution of the wife murderer Devlin falls to the hands of a Deputy Sheriff.

— An exchange reminds us that hens are busy getting ready for Easter.

— This is the season, the welcome season, when the sap begins to flow.

— It is claimed for Lowell that there are few cities in the country that have gone right along as she has done through the hard times which are now ending.

— The prospects of a harvest in the Punjaub, India, have been favorably settled by copious rains.

— An ingenious advertiser observes, of course very innocently, that the phonograph is nothing to sozodont. One is in your ear, the other is in your mouth.

— The alarming rumors of the spread of the plague in the East have caused the Government at Washington to issue an order forbidding the importation of rags, furs, etc.

— There is a bill before the Pennsylvania legislature to authorize hotel-keepers to post in a conspicuous place lists of guests who leave without paying their bills.

— The brass-bowed spectacles of the famous John Brown are said to be in the possession of a person in Richmond, Va.

— Gen. Sherman and Jefferson Davis a few days ago went on of Vicksburg on the same train of cars.

— Capt. Boyton is still swimming down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, going ashore occasionally to eat and lecture.

— Dr. Craven, the Government inspector of cattle in New York, says that there has not been any "epidemic" pleuro pneumonia among cattle in this country.

— The German Crown Prince is in England, in attendance on the wedding festivities of the Princess Louisa Margaret and the Duke of Connaught.

— Men in different parts of the country write to Castle Garden, New York, asking the Commissioner of Emigration to select wives for them among the German and English women who are brought over.

— Col. Mosby, the new American Consul to China, has arrived out at Hong Kong.

— Oranges have seldom if ever been so plentiful and cheap in the market as now.

— The Pennsylvania coal combination is beginning to think of higher prices.

— A couple from Canada, now on their way to Dakota to settle, weigh respectively 310 pounds for the man and 304 pounds for the woman.

— Mr. Samuel J. Tilden is said to have made a million dollars from the rise in elevated railway stock in New York, and Mr. Cyrus W. Field has made as much more.

— Congress is expected to prolong its session into the Summer, with much attending excitement.

— Fast Day comes on Friday in Connecticut, but on Thursday in Massachusetts.

— Darwin, the author of The Descent of Man, is over seventy years of age.

— A prominent shipbuilder of Maine is authority for the statement that at least twenty thousand mechanics have left that State since the close of the war.

— Foreign physicians in Russia have held a conference and decided that the plague has died out, no cases having occurred since the 9th of February.

— M. Frank Paige, of this city, has been found guilty of conspiracy to defraud his creditors.

— The Mercantile Club of Boston entertained the commercial Club of Providence, at Parker's last week.

— A severe thunder storm visited Western New York and Canada West, on Saturday of last week.

— A remarkable religious revival is at present taking place in Portsmouth, N. H.

— Capt. Boyton has to run the gauntlet of shot guns in the hands of hunters, on his swimming trip down the Mississippi. They wonder what sort of a creature it is.

— The Zulus of South Africa have again assaulted the British troops, but were repulsed with great reported loss.

— The Canard Steamship Company has put up an electric light on its wharf at East Boston, which is used at night.

— March is March, but neither March nor April can reproduce the tough old weather specimens of January and December.

— The constitutionality of the legal tender act is about to be brought to a test in the United States Supreme Court.

— A comprehensive raid on Hong Kong is reported to be threatened by a force of four thousand Chinese pirates.

— It is denied that a compromise has been effected in the Vanderbilt will case. It is liable to be opened at any day.

— The dry goods trade in New York is much improved, and a good Spring business is anticipated.

— The State Convention of the Reform Clubs of Maine was held in Brunswick last week, there being a very large attendance.

— Washington residents feel happy in view of an extra session of Congress.

— It is none too early for farmers to be brushing and fixing matters for the opening of the season's campaign in the fields.

— The Maine Dairymen's Association held its regular meeting in Winthrop, on the 5th, and continued three days. There was an exhibition of dairy products and the proceedings were interesting in the extreme.

— Much interest has been manifested in the temperance work in Dover, N. H., during the past few weeks.

— A number of the vessels composing the fishing fleet of Gloucester that were out in the gale of February 20th, are yet to arrive home.

— A tremendous explosion of nitro-glycerine at Dutch Gap Canal, in Virginia, caused a loss of life last week.

— The northern and eastern portions of California have been visited by a severe rain storm.

— A number of persons from Lowell joined with those of South Chelmsford, on the 5th inst., in celebrating the 100th birthday of Mrs. Judith Twombly, in the latter place.

— With the close of last week's performances, the Boston Museum Company played H. M. S. Pinafore just one hundred times.

— The bill in equity brought by the Troy and Greenfield Railroad against the State to redeem the Hoosac Tunnel, will be argued on the Commonwealth's demurrer at the present March term before the full Court.

— The foreign steamers from this port continue to carry out large cargoes of all sorts of produce, by every departure.

At the annual meeting in this city, last week, of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, fifty millions of dollars were represented by those present.

— Hon. George B. Loring left with his daughter for Savannah, to pass the two weeks interval to the assembling of Congress in extra session.

BRAIN AND NERVE FOOD.—Vitalized Phosphates composed of the nerve giving principles of the ox brain and wheat germ. Physicians have prescribed 150,000 packages in all forms of nervous disorders. They are especially useful in the sufferings that accompany and follow the use of alcoholic liquors; they tone the stomach and nerves, but do not stimulate and relieve the craving desire for drink. They relieve nervous headache and debility. F. Crosby, 666 Sixth Ave., N. Y. For sale by druggists.

OLIVER CHILLED PLOW.
NORTHAMPTON, Nov. 1878.
M. H. SPAULDING & Co.:
Gentlemen—Three years ago I sent to an agent in Michigan for one of the Oliver's Chilled Plows; have used it ever since, done all my plowing with it with two heavy horses. It is the best plow I ever used. The same point is on the plow now that was on at the time I bought it, and it seems to me will never wear out. I consider it the most economical plow that could possibly be made. Any farmer that has once used one would never use any other. It does more than is represented or guaranteed by the makers. E. J. SMITH.
See advertisement of Whittemore Bros., in another column.

Flint's Twenty-sixth Agricultural Report.—This number of the Annual Report of the Secretary of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, with the Returns of the Finances of the Agricultural Societies, which covers the agricultural proceedings of the State for the year 1878 has been recently issued from the press of Rand, Avery & Company, Printers to the Commonwealth. It is prefaced with a list of the Officers of the State Board of Agriculture for 1879. The recorded proceedings of the Board occupy 350 pages of this handsome volume, succeeding which is a tabulated Report of the Finances of the Societies, and the remainder of the volume is devoted to an Abstract of Returns of the Agricultural Societies of the State; prefaced with a list of the Officers of the several Agricultural Societies and a list of Agricultural Exhibitions for 1879, with the dates of holding. We might succinctly state that the first part of the volume is taken up with discussions, and the latter with addresses and reports of committees; although many of the discussions contain essays in point of both length and thought. It is, as a whole, a volume well calculated to hold up and to advance the agriculture of Massachusetts. The advantage which the careful collection and skillful reduction of a mass of experience and testimony such as is here to be found cannot fail to be to the farming interests of the State is not easy to be estimated. There is no single topic pertaining to farming on Massachusetts soil which does not find a hint, an opinion, or downright treatment in this valuable volume. The contents, too, are all live matter. The pages are not littered with dry statistics merely, as if the work of compilation were one of weariness and formality; they arouse the attention, excite comparisons of personal experience, and provoke steady and continuous thought. In so brief a compass, the present Report is a sort of library in itself, to which the farmers of the State can never refer save with practical profit. It begins for the Board of Agriculture, and for its laborious Secretary also, the second quarter of a century's work in the agricultural field; and if this work continues to be carried forward in the spirit and with the energy with which it was begun, the agricultural condition of Massachusetts at the end of the century will be one of the marvels of the effect of steady and scientific culture.

Farmers' Institutes.—The State Board of Agriculture having voted that the several local Agricultural Societies should hold not less than two or three Institutes each during the season, it is at present engaged actively in co-operating with the local Societies through its officers in carrying out the intention of the v te. Accordingly a Farmers' Institute was held at Westboro on Friday, the 7th inst., at which Secretary Flint was present and engaged the attention of the large number present in an address ot an hour's length, which was received with great favor. Another Institute was held at Taunton, on Wednesday of the present week, and a third will be held at Salem, on Tuesday, the 18th., in Plumber Hall, at which, as at the others, papers will be read by well-known farmers and culturists and discussions will follow. The interest manifested locally in these meetings is an increasing one, the citizens of the surrounding country attending in large numbers, and displaying genuine enthusiasm. The proceedings throughout are such as to call forth the freest and most profitable interchange of thought and opinion. The work of the State Board, it will thus be seen, in going forward with all possible energy and that most necessary agent in the development of agricultural spirit in the State is employing itself effectively everywhere. The Institutes form the new feature of its active operation.

☞ We would call the attention of our readers to the advertisement of John Mansfield & Son, 14 Tremont Row, whose stock of boots and shoes is well worth the consideration of all buyers. The correctness of style, and excellence of material, combined with a moderate price, will ensure a ready sale.

☞ JOHN WEISS, a very radical Unitarian minister and author, and critic of no mean power, died on Sunday at his home in Boston, his native city, a little past the age of sixty. He was a graduate of Harvard, and studied at Heidelberg, where German philosophy first took him with an influence which was evident in his writings. He preached in Boston, in New Bedford and elsewhere in the eastern part of the State, but since 1862 has occupied no pulpit, but has been an admired lecturer on many topics ethical and æsthetical, a brilliant magazinist—being well known by his contributions to the *Christian Examiner*, and especially by those to the *Atlantic Monthly* in its early years,—and author of a good biography of Theodore Parker, besides many sermons, and his translation of lectures on Shakespearian topics and religion. Mr. Weiss's views on religion were those of the outside wing of Unitarianism; he was a large contributor to the "*Radical*" monthly, organ of the Free Religious association. In everything he exhibited an independent spirit, an original form of expression, and an earnestness of intent, which must be ably set off against his many defects of attainments. He possessed a vigorous and brilliant style at its best, but it was often crabbed with an ambition to escape the common, and overloaded with metaphor and epithet, left behind many manuscripts, among them, it i said, that of a book upon the life hereafter, which he was engaged upon at his death. Personally Mr. Weiss was of the most serene and spotless life, and greatly beloved by the few who knew him.—*Springfield Republican.*

☞ Mr. Jennings recently sailed from New York with twenty-one bull-dogs for New Orleans, to engage in a national bulldog tournament there, but Mr. Henry Bergh dispatched a letter of warning, in consequence of which a law against dog fights was hurried through the Legislature and promptly signed by the governor, and Mr. Jennings, upon reaching New Orleans, found he could not transact the business which he went on, and so has come home, bringing his bull-dogs with him.—*Nantucket Inquirer.*

☞ Sheep-farming to a limited extent may be combined with dairy farming. When a small flock of sheep are raised with cows there is but little danger of injury from the cows, unless it is the case now and then of a vicious brute, which in any case should at once be put out of the herd. Sheep are good gleaners, both summer and winter, and their wool will bring a nice little sum after shearing time, to say nothing of the value of lambs and mutton sheep for summer meat occasionally.—*Exchange.*

☞ Most of our readers are not aware of how beautiful the finest strains of the dwarf, double Hollyhocks are. There is no other flower that has been really improved by florists more than this.

VALUE OF PHOSPHATE.
[From Grafton County (N. H.) Journal.]

Do Superphosphates pay? Had the question been asked us a week ago I should have answered in the affirmative, but to-day I can answer what I know about it by actual trial. I used 13 1-2 lbs. each of the following four Superphosphates, upon two rows of Corn of 150 hills each with the following results:

R. Coe's Superphosphate, 402 lbs. Corn, 352 lbs Fodder.
Wilson's Superphosphate, 374 lbs. Corn, 346 lbs. Fodder.
Bay State Superphosphate, 353 lbs. Corn, 334 lbs. Fodder.
Bradley's Superphosphate, 342 lbs. Corn, 347 lbs. Fodder.
Nothing in hill, 330 lbs. Corn, 320 lbs. Fodder
Campton, N. H., Sept. 25, 1878.
(signed) A. T. PAGE.
State of N. H. Grafton ss. Sept 25, 1878
Then personally appeared Samuel T. Page and made oath that the above statement by him subscribed is true. Before
CYRUS KENISTON, J. P.
R. Coe's Superphosphate is for sale by Whittemore Bros., Boston.

WORKINGMEN.

Before you begin your heavy spring work after a winter of relaxation, your system needs cleansing and strengthening to prevent an attack of Ague, Billious or Spring Fever, or some other Spring sickness that will unfit you for a season's work. You will save time, much sickness and great expense if you will use one bottle of Hop Bitters in your family this month. Don't wait. See other column.

"SUN OR MOON."

'Twas midnight in Edinburgh, when two strangers in a happy frame of mind were seen gazing at the old Tron Church clock, vigorously discussing whether 'twas sun or moon. Being unable to decide, they agreed to leave it to a passing third party, who quickly replied that he did not know, as he was a stranger in those parts. Are not the statements of those who are strangers to the merits of Dr. Pierce's Family Medicines, and yet condemn them because they have been deceived in other "put up" medicines, equally as sensible? Would you condemn the church because you chance to know one or two hypocrites? In diseases of the stomach, liver, blood, and lungs, the Discovery has no equal. Those who have been cured are numbered by thousands. Is it not safer to trust a remedy that has been so extensively and successfully employed, than the inexperienced physician who has naught but regular allopathy which he can refer? For full particulars, see the People's Common Sense Medical Adviser—a work of over 900 pages, nearly 300 illustrations. Price, postpaid, $1.50. Address the author, R. V. Pierce, M. D., Buffalo, N. Y.

For an Irritated Throat, Cough or Cold, "*Brown's Bronchial Troches*" are offered with the fullest confidence in their efficacy. They have acquired a great reputation by having justly acquired...25c a box.

A GOOD HOUSEWIFE.

The good housewife, when she is giving he house spring renovating, should bear in mind that the dear inmates of her house are more precious than many houses, and that their systems need cleansing by purifying the blood, regulating the stomach and bowels to prevent and cure the diseases arising from spring malaria and miasms, and she must know that there is nothing that will do it so perfectly and surely as Hop Bitters, the purest and best of medicine. See other column.

☞ Chew Jackson's best Sweet Navy Tobacco

DEATHS.

In this city, 8th inst., Fanny Wood, wife of Alex H. Wood, 35 years.

In this city, 10th inst., Sarah Holmes, wife of Peter Holmes, of Plymouth, 61 years 10 months.

In this city, 9th inst., Mrs. Andrew Cunningham, 85 years.

In this city, 9th inst., Miss Abba G. Bacon, 82.

In this city, 11th inst., David D. Stackpole, 67 years 7 months.

In this city, 9th inst., Rev. John Weiss, 60 years 9 months.

In this city, 12th inst., Samuel C. Capen, 66 years 2 months.

In Roxbury, 11th inst., Mary Beals, widow of the late Capt. Benjamin Beals, of Boston, 94 years.

In Winchester, 7th inst., Mrs. Sophia F. Blake, 67 years, formerly of Concord, N. H.

In South Hingham, 6th inst., Mrs. Martha Rogers Sprague, wife of Reuben O. Sprague, 71 years, formerly of Gloucester.

In Medfield, 8th inst., Polly P., wife of the late Simon Harding, 88 years 8 months.

In Portsmouth, N. H., 11th inst., Elizabeth Haven Thacher, widow of the late Henry S. Thacher, 81 yrs.

In Georgetown, Mass., 9th inst., Jeremiah Carter, 79 years. A graduate of Harvard, class of 1820.

In West Roxbury, 10th inst., Benjamin Guild, 79.

In Watertown, 6th inst., Frank W. Lord, 31 years 10 months.

In Stoneham, 9th inst., Helen R., wife of J. W. Hanson, aged 36 years 7 months 9 days.

In Weymouth, 8th inst., Lucinda, widow of the late Gilman Thompson, 61 years 11 months 17 days.

In Sedgwick, Me., 6th inst., Mrs. Ruth, wife of Jairus White, 64 years 6 months.

In Worcester, 10th inst., Amelia R., wife of Frederic A. Collins, 52 years 8 months 18 days.

In Walpole, 9th inst., Harriet A., wife of Deacon Merrill Boyden.

In Foxboro', Mass., 9th inst., Charles T. Holland, formerly of Bangor, Me., 72 years 9 months.

In Canton, 9th inst., Mrs. Rebecca Lawrenson, 91 years 5 months 6 days.

In North Billerica, 9th inst., Calvin Rogers, 84 years 6 months.

In Petersham, 10th inst., Lewis E. Whitney.

In Prov dence, 7th inst., J. Manton Bradley, eldest son of Charles S. Bradley, in his 36th year.

In Bangor, Me., 8th inst., William P. Thompson, eldest son of the late William Thompson, 31 yrs 9 mos.

In Chesterfield, N. H., 11th inst., William Greenough, Esq., 64 years.

In Exeter, N. H., 8th inst., Jeremiah L. Merrill, 60 years.

In Springfield, Vt., 8th inst., Samuel Whitcomb, formerly of Boston, 78 years 6 months.

In New York city, 9th inst., Mrs. Peter Atkinson, son of Eliza J. and the late Andrew Atkinson of Boston, 30 years 9 months.

In Hartford, Conn., 9th inst., Rev. John Orcutt, D.D., Secretary of the American Colonization Society.

In Chicago, 9th inst., Mrs. Emeline Goodrich, late the late Deacon Samuel Gracie of Boston, 71 years.

In Paris, France, 8th inst., Nathaniel Greene Carnes of New York, formerly of Boston, 70 years.

In Naples, Italy, 10th inst., Joshua, eldest son of the late Joshua Stetson of Boston, in his 24th year.

Domestic Markets.

WHOLESALE PRICES.

BOSTON PRODUCE MARKET.

Flour.—Owing to the firmness of wheat in the primary markets holders here are firm, but the demand continues light. Quote spring wheat at $3 00@3 37½ ₱ bbl; low extras at $3 75@4 25; medium do. at $4 25@4 75; choice at $4 75@5 00; winter wheat extras at $3 75@4 10; fair to good family brands at $4 25@4 50; choice do., 10c for 3 lbs do., 9c for 10 lbs do., 10c for 7 lbs do., 10c for 5 lbs do., 9c for 10 lbs do., 10c for 7 lbs cups. Fairbanks' kettle rendered leaf Lard at 9½c for 3 lb pails, 9c for 5 lb do., 9c for 10 lbs do., 9c for 10 lbs and 9½c for 1 lb cups. Fairbanks' kettle rendered leaf Lard at 9½c for 3 lb pails, 9c for 5 lbs do., 9c for 10 lbs do., 10c for 7 lbs do., 10c for 5 lbs do., 10½c for 3 lbs cups. Smoked Hams at 8½c ₱ lb for city cured. Western, 8½@9c., and fancy covered, 9@10c ₱ lb. Beef at $9 50@10 00 ₱ bbl for Western mess; $10 00@10 50 for extra, and $10 75@11 00 ₱ bbl for plates.

BOSTON BUTTER MARKET.

Choice Western winter made factory worked butter is in demand at 26@28c., and Northern creameries sell at 25@28c., but there are only a few that will command the outside price. Straight dairies are dull and move slowly at 14@16c. Common and medium is dull and unaltered.

We quote choice creameries at —@30c; choice New York and Vermont dairies at 20@23c; winter-made factory worked Western butter at 18@19c, with occasional sales at 19@20c ₱ lb; good New York and Vermont dairy butter at 14@16c; common to medium at 10@13c; good Western butter at 19@14c, and common and inferior at 8@10c ₱ lb. Jobbers' prices are two or three cents higher than the above quotations.

BOSTON CHEESE MARKET.

There is a fair inquiry at 8½@9c for the best factories, and there have been some out-of-town buyers here that have taken fair sized lots.

We quote fine factories at 8½@9c; good do., at 7½@8c; medium at 7@7½c, and early made cheese nominally 5c ₱ lb and upwards.

BOSTON EGG MARKET.

Market firm at 16@17c ₱ doz., with a fair demand and only a moderate supply.

MARRIAGES.

In this city, 6th inst., by Rev. A. A. Miner, M. Morton Holmes to Alice Fanny, eldest daughter of John C. Haynes of Boston.

In this city, 27th ult., by Rev. Wallace Webster, Thomas Sparrow to Mary A. Wallace, both of Boston.

In this city, 6th inst., by Rev. H. M. King, Albion P. White of Townsend, Vt., to Aurilla A. Hutchins of Boston.

In this city, 27th ult., by Francis W. Ryder, Esq., Charles W. Trombly to Helen A. Perkins, both of Boston.

In Somerville, 6th inst., by Rev. S. H. Winkley, Charles S. Darling of Cambridge, to Celene W. Palmer of Somerville.

In Mattapan, 11th inst., by Rev. S. H. Winkley, Frank P. Partridge of Somerville, to Lettie M. Oldham of Mattapan.

BOSTON STOCK MARKET.

March 13, 1879, at 3 P. M.

As Corrected by Brewster, Bassett & Co., No. 36 Congress Street.

	Bid.	Asked.
Water Power	3	3½
Boston Land	2	2½
Atch. & Topeka 1st, 7's	—	—
Do. Land grant 7's	—	—
Do. 2d 7's	—	115
Do Land 6's	—	—
Eastern R. R., 6's	67	67½
Hartford & Erie 7's	86½	86½
Union Pacific 6's	—	—
" " Land grant	—	—
" " S. Fund 6's	100	—
Atchison

New Advertisements.

PAINT

THAT WEARS TWENTY YEARS ON OUTSIDE SURFACES.

Sold at 145 Milk Street, BOSTON.

ASAHEL WHEELER'S

PAINT PRESERVER.

One of the most notable achievements in this direction has ever been made, is the discovery by Mr. Asahel Wheeler, of a peculiar preparation of oil for the preservation of paint upon exteriors.

Although but recently brought to public notice, and introduced several years ago, and extensively used, and the result is a perfect success. The experiments have been in continuation for the past four years in order to prove its durability before the public, and the result is a perfect success. The combination withstood the force of the elements, sun and storms, and remains free from any signs of decay.

After so long a period of constant exposure, it is a necessity in preparing that if two coats of the Preserver are applied to the bare wood before painting, it will last twenty years, or longer, it being of a nature to penetrate and completely fills the grain of the wood, and thereby absorb the oil from the paint coat.

Its composition renders it equal to old fattened Linseed Oil, which is known by painters as possessing more body, durability than any other vehicle now used for painting. Illustrations of this fact may be seen in painting where ancient sign boards can be seen to-day in the letters containing perfect after the wood has become bare wood; some instances occur where the paint has resisted the ravages of the weather for a period of more years. This is the result of using the Preserver in offering, had the whole surface been painted with the same oil the result would have been indefinite.

In painting the wooden ark of houses use the Paint and Preserver mixing; this will form a solid non-absorbing coating which will not crack, but will retain its original gloss and durability.

In the present mode of painting upon exterior surfaces, there is a very great waste of labor and material, for it is a well-known fact that the use of strictly pure white lead will not be obtained for outside painting does not wear two years before it commences to rot, and at the same time proving a destruction to the body in the oil to sustain the pigment in the Paint; however we have all the ingredients in the Paint Preserver we have all the material substances which help to create the greatest durability.

The cost of the Paint Preserver is only three cents per square yard or two coats, and the best rules for painting are as follows, viz:

For new, or very old dry work, apply two coats without any preliminary painting, although when only without any preliminary painting, although when only without any preliminary painting, although when only

The Poet's Corner.

ON SONG'S BRIGHT PINIONS.

[Pioneer Press.]

On Song's bright pinions I would fly away,
To regions of celestial harmony;
Some Lotos land of ever pure delight,
Where music hath attained supremest height.

There would I dwell; a world to whose farthest bounds,
And confines were a "concord of sweet sounds."
No discord there, but tones of magic art,
Like Lethe's fount, immortal joys impart.

For there are paths in music yet untrod,
Which lead the very soul to God.
Songs still unsung, chords yet unstruck and melodies untold,
Which master minds, unborn, their beauties must unfold.

And there is a realm which giveth birth
To rapturous strains undreamed of here on earth,
It is where Christ's redeemed in saintly rest abide,
After this veil of flesh, by death is drawn aside.

Ladies' Department.

Written expressly for the Massachusetts Ploughman

THE LOST INDIAMAN.

An Original Story.

BY "CORPORAL SQUIB"

Author of "A Trip Southward," "Nautica Sketches," "Corporal Squib on the Farm," "David and I," etc.

[Continued from last week.]

CHAPTER XXXIV.

Mary had spoken truly for Martha, for she was willing, and more than willing to go and help take care of the young widower's house and children. And neither Aunt Huldah nor the Captain saw any impropriety in their going, or made any objection to the arrangement. Therefore they went over, a few days before Brown and his wife moved into their new house, and made their home with Tidd.

The Captain's house was not in sight from there, and on that account Aunt Huldah thought they might be a little lonely, but it was only half a mile off—not very far in a newly-settled country—and the house that Brown had just built,—or that the neighbors had helped him to build,—could be seen, and the distance to that was even less than to the Captain's.

Although the neighbors helped Brown to build his house, he made his own furniture. Nor did it require very much time to make what they had to start with. Indeed, it was no great moving when they moved in. They carried over the bedding from Tidd's,—Mrs. Brown having made the most of it since their arrival there,—and bought just things enough at the village store to cook and eat with,—and one small looking-glass beside. Sarah said she must have a looking-glass, not because she enjoyed looking at herself, but because she would like to see herself as others saw her, and be able to do up her hair. Constant suggested that he could do up her hair for her; but he was very glad to pay for that joke by buying the looking-glass.

All the other furniture they had at first was a pine table, two or three very plain chairs, and a low, square-post bedstead. It was enough to start with, Brown said, and he could make more as they should need it. They could tell the hour of the day only when the sun shone, by a pewter dial nailed to the top of a post outside the house. All night, and in cloudy weather, they must guess at the time. And may it not be that this necessity for guessing in those early days was what made our Yankee fathers so famous for guessing? At any rate, Brown often declared that he could tell within fifteen minutes what time it was, whether the sun shone or not; and Sarah always upheld him in that statement. "I would rather have Constant than the best clock that ever was made," she said. "He's always sure to come home just at dinner-time without my calling."

And so, although not unmindful of others' sorrows, and of those great afflictions that sometimes come so suddenly to all, this young couple began life in their new home with cheerful hearts; and I much doubt whether they would have been any happier even if they had ever so much more to do with.

And Tidd, although he so sadly missed the one who was gone—who had helped him to begin life in the same way,—felt that he had yet great reason to be thankful, in that his new friends had come at such a time. He could not but think how desolate his life would now be but for them; and it almost seemed as if they had been providentially sent, to give him comfort and cheer. His two children, although they asked often for mamma, and sometimes cried because she did not come, soon became so attached to Mary—their "new mamma," as they called her—that they no longer missed the one who was gone. "Aunt Martie," too, began to grow in their affections; so that in a few weeks they really had nothing to mourn for.

And nothing could have been more cheering to the father of those little ones than the presence of these two sisters in his house. All through the day he was looking forward with pleasurable anticipation to the hour for returning home; and when it came he made no delay. And yet his love for her who was gone was in no way diminished. It seemed strange to him, sometimes, that he could live so cheerfully as he did without her. He used to go every Sabbath to the place where she was buried, and sit for a while at her stone. For it did seem to him as if he and she were there together alone at such times. Though he could not see her, he felt her presence, and it was like a healing balm to his crushed and bleeding heart. He desired no other company while at her grave, for that would have dispelled the dear illusion of her presence; and so he went, always when he could, alone.

His children had those lovable natures which attract others to them, and Mary had not been long in charge of them before she was conscious of a growing love that she had never felt before,—a love which she felt must be very much akin to that of a real mother. For they did really come to love her as a mother, and it could scarce be otherwise than that her love should go out in response to theirs.

But the sisters had been keeping Tidd's house scarce three weeks, when Creeler again appeared; and great was his surprise to learn what had happened. Of course he went to the Captain's first. Aunt Huldah could not mistake the look of disappointment that was in his face when she told him that Mary was actually house-keeping—for another man. She imagined she knew just what he thought, and as she was good at guessing, probably she was not far out of the way. It was about the middle of the afternoon when Creeler arrived,—Bloany with him, as usual,—and he said he would go over and call on the sisters at once. He had come directly from Salem, and having lately been in Manchester, he could give them news of their old friends there. Leaving Bloany behind to care for the horses, he went over on foot.

Mary was a little confused at sight of him. She happened to be alone,—Martha having taken the children and gone over to see Mrs. Brown's new house. She had no warning of his coming till he rapped, gently, on the casing of the open door. With a heart-bound she turned quickly to see who was there; for no one who was accustomed to coming there ever knocked. When she saw Creeler, her face flushed, and she was speechless.

"Pardon me—pardon me, Miss Fletcher, for coming upon you so abruptly," said Creeler hurriedly and evidently a little confused himself; "but really, you are not alone?"

"I—I—yes, Mr. Creeler; Martha and the children have gone out," Mary replied, without asking him in; and there he stood, hat in hand, outside the open door, about as confused as she was. "I trust you will pardon me, Miss Fletcher," he said again, "for coming unannounced. I certainly did not expect to find you alone."

"I—I—you must pardon me, Mr. Creeler, for not asking you to come in. But you came so suddenly—and being alone—I was a little startled. You must pardon me for not asking you to come in." And still she did not ask him to come in.

But Creeler took it on himself to come in, then, understanding, of course, that the apology was a sufficient invitation. "I don' wonder you were startled, Miss Fletcher, being alone as you are," he said as he entered, "and in such an out-of-the way place. Indeed, I am surprised to find you living here. There seems to have been a great change in the few months I have been gone."

"A great change for Mr. Tidd, surely. His wife was taken away so suddenly, it was a heavy blow to him."

"But he has been most fortunate—most fortunate indeed, in securing so fitting a person to take her place."

Mary felt that this was rather a rude thing for the young man to say. With her face suffused to crimson she replied:

"I fell it my duty, Mr. Creeler, to come here and care for his children, deprived so suddenly as they were of a mother's care But I do not take to myself all the credit for coming, for Martha was as willing to come as I, and I certainly should not have come without her."

"Pardon me, Miss Fletcher; pardon me; I meant no more, surely, than that Mr. Tidd was really fortunate in finding so readily such a person to care for his children. I do not suppose, of course, that the arrangement is more than a temporary one."

"Oh, no; it will continue no longer than Mr. Tidd has need of us. But the children are so lovable, that I already find myself strongly attached to them. I am not sure that I should love them more if they were my own."

"I don't know, Miss Fletcher; I don't know; but I should think they would be likely to inherit some of the peculiarities of their parents. Of course, Miss Fletcher, they wouldn't be like your own children."

Mary's face was again suffused; but, seeming to remember suddenly that Creeler might have news from Manchester, she asked him if he had lately been there, and was very glad to hear that he had. He had seen the good old parson, and had actually brought a letter from him. Mary took it with an eager hand, but refrained from opening it in Creeler's presence. He could himself only give her some general intelligence regarding the old place, and those who lived there, which, after all, was not very satisfactory. But the fact that he had brought that letter—was almost enough to have made him welcome. When she had drawn from him all he knew about the people of Manchester, she asked if he had yet decided where to settle.

"Indeed, Miss Fletcher," he said, rather hesitatingly, and with his eyes fixed in a sort of inquiring look on her, "that will yet depend, somewhat, on circumstances. I have found no pleasanter place than this, anywhere; though I have not much doubt New York surpasses this in many agricultural advantages. There is some very rich country there;—but, Miss Fletcher, there—there is one attraction here—that New York does not possess—and the assurance of its being permanent, would at once bring me to a decision."

He paused, but his eager inquiring look never relaxed. Mary felt that look to her finger's ends. For a moment she was incapable of utterance; but then, with a spasmodic effort, she asked, "What may that attraction be, Mr. Creeler?"

He started suddenly from his chair and went and dropped on one knee by her side. Looking in her face, as if his very soul was in his eyes, he said, "I pardon me, my dear Miss Fletcher—perhaps I ought not to say it, but you will pardon me I know—that attraction is—your own presence here!" and clasping one of her hands he bowed his face upon it.

She tried to withdraw that hand from his, with a stammering effort to say something in reply, but did not succeed in either, at once. Creeler raised his eyes again to hers, still holding her hand between his own. "Do not cast me off," he said; "do not! I have not told you yet, my dear Miss Fletcher, nor can I ever tell you, how much I love you; how much I have loved you from the time when I was forced to bring those cruel tidings of lost love to you; how much I loved you when in your great affliction it seemed as if I must love without hope. Oh, Miss Fletcher, I have not before dared to tell you!—and you must—you will pardon me for telling you now—will you not?" and the last words were so tenderly pleading that Mary could not say nay.

But it would have been still more impossible for her to have given him any hope that his love could ever be returned. In her great dilemma she could not, at once, hardly make any intelligible reply. "Oh, sir—Mr. Creeler, I—I—you—you—Oh, surely, I have no need—no love—that does not belong to him! Oh, sir, do not, I entreat you, ask me for what I cannot give!"

"I could not resist! I could not, with such an opportunity—an opportunity which it seemed as if Providence had given me! I beg your forgiveness, my dear Miss Fletcher, if what I have said has caused you pain. But I thought that time might have softened the loss to you of him who was so dear, and that I might, at last, plead my own love with some hope. You are so young, yet, Miss Fletcher, and so perfect in all that is human, that you cannot, surely, expect to be passed unheeded by. You must pardon me!—you will forgive me, won't you, for having dared to love you?" and again his voice sank to such tenderly imploring accents as would have softened a harder heart than Mary's.

"Do not—do not, Mr. Creeler, ask pardon or forgiveness of me," she said; "and do not, I entreat you, speak to me in flattery. Oh, Mr. Creeler, you don't know how mortal I am! All that I had of heart and love I gave to him, and I cannot recall one single emotion, but that of pity, for another."

"Pity me, then! pity me, and let me live—still live, by giving me just one word of hope! O thou, who art ever in my thoughts sleeping and waking, do not cast me wholly off! give me but one word of hope! You spoke but now of the great love that you have come to feel for two motherless children;—then, surely, love, even with you, is not yet a thing impossible. Give me but one word of hope; say, at least, that should you ever feel that you can love me again, you will listen to me. Will you not say that, dear angel of light?"

He had never yet released her hand, and now, on bended knee, he still held it firmly clasped and looked imploring in her averted face.

"Oh, Mr. Creeler," she said, "you wring my heart! Why—oh, why should you love me? I am only a poor weak woman. You might find many who are more lovable, who would return all your love. Oh, Mr. Creeler, I entreat you to seek elsewhere for that happiness which you so mistakenly think you would find with me! The love I feel for those children is not such love as you would ask—it would be hateful to you, compared with what you seek. The love that you would have is gone—all gone, and can never be recalled. Do not entreat me more, I pray you!"

"Then, surely, if you feel thus you will never wed another. Would it be too much, dear one, for you to say that?"

"Oh, no! no! for surely I never can wed—another."

"Bless you! bless you for that!" and he kissed with glowing fervor the hand he held.

Just then the sound of prattling voices was heard, and, releasing Mary's hand, Creeler rose to his feet. In a moment more Martha appeared, leading the two children, who, "soon" said she, as she stepped within the open door, "Mr. Creeler! Why, I didn't know that you had come back!"

"I only arrived this afternoon, Miss Martha, and learning from your aunt that you were here, I came directly over, to deliver a letter I had brought from your good guardian, and to give you such news of old friends as I might be able to give."

"Oh, and how do they all do? and how is that dear old man? Tell me about them, Mr. Creeler—I suppose you have told Mary. How unfortunate that I was not here! But you will tell me, now, Mr. Creeler; and be sure to tell me every word that you have told her. I'm so sorry!—but of course you won't mind telling it all again."

Although Creeler said, with a light laugh, that it would give him pleasure to repeat it all, he seemed a little confused, and there was more than the natural redness in his face; which signs did not escape Martha's quick perception, and she became more moderate in her requests; seeming, as she continued to converse with Creeler, to be so thoughtful at times that he could not help thinking that her mind was on something else. This led to some constraint on his part, and perhaps shortened his visit somewhat. Taking leave of them at least an hour before it was time for Tidd to return from his work, he retraced his way to the Captain's house.

CHAPTER XXXV.

Creeler was the Captain's guest for some days, seeming rather undecided whether to purchase land or not. The Captain spent considerable time in showing him different tracts, and in doing the best he could to persuade him to buy. One day they stopped and seated themselves on a log in a sunny part of the woods through which they were passing. "There is one thing, Captain," Creeler said, while they were sitting there, "that I take into consideration. You know I am unmarried; and on that account it might be a little lonely for me to settle down in the woods; even after I had cleared a place."

"Oh, well, of course you'll get a wife before long. I rather suspected you had one in view, and that you'd be likely to marry as soon as you had got settled, if not before."

"I have had some such thought, Captain, but to tell the truth, there is only one woman I would have,—and she won't have me."

The Captain hemmed, and cleared his throat, and then he said, "You shouldn't be too particular, Mr. Creeler. If you've found one woman you'd be willing to have, that's a pretty sure sign you'll find another if you keep on looking. You are young and pretty well as to looks, besides being well to do, as I understand it. You ought to be able to find a good wife without going begging for her."

"I rather suspect that women who are worth having are not so easily caught as they might be," said Creeler, meditatively. "At any rate, I know of only one, now, that I would care to have; and she is keeping house for another man;" and as Creeler said this he gave the Captain a very deep look, if I may use such an expression.

"Ahem!" said the Captain; "Ahem! I rather expect I know who you mean. I had a suspicion the first time you was here, that there was something of that kind in the wind, and said so to Huldah. And let me tell you, Mr. Creeler, we both thought it would be a good match."

"Did you, Captain? Did you?" was the eager inquiry.

"I don't see why it wouldn't be. Mary would make a good enough wife for any man living, I guess; and I don't see, really, why she should object to you. Have you ever asked her to have ye?"

Creeler looked thoughtfully at the Captain for a moment, and then he said, "Aye, Captain, I have asked her."

"And showed 't have ye, eh? Well, there's no accounting for women's whims. There's Martha, now,—probably she'd jump at the chance. But she's rather young. She'll make a spanking good wife for some man, though, bye and bye;" and the Captain laughed.

"I shouldn't want Martha. You know, Captain, there is a great difference between those two. I never should ask Martha even if she were fifty years older."

The Captain laughed again, and pulling out his jack-knife, he pried off a shiver of wood and began to whittle. "Well, Mr. Creeler," said he, "you'll get somebody, after awhile, I guess. I rather guess Mary'll come round bye and bye, if you only hang on. Did she tell you the reason she wouldn't have ye?"

"She hasn't got over mourning for Mr. Woodman, yet."

"Is that all? She'll come round all right, bye and bye, I guess, if it is. If that's all the reason—and I s'pose it must be—I wouldn't be discouraged, Mr. Creeler. You just take that tract we were speaking of, and clear up a hundred acres, and put up a good house, and I'll warrant you she'll be ready by that time. It will look better to her, you know, when you come to have a home for her to go to."

"If I could only be sure of that, Captain, I wouldn't hesitate a moment. If you could give me any certainty of it, Captain—though I don't know as I should want you to speak to her about it either,—but if you *could* give me any certainty of it, of course I should know what to do."

"Um! Um! Like enough Huldah can say something to her about it;" and the Captain cut the sharp point he had made to his stick square off, as if to emphasize the remark. "But if that's all, of course she'll come round, Mr. Creeler, if you only wait long enough."

"I don't enjoy waiting for anything of that kind, Captain;—though, of course, I could wait a year or two, if I knew it would be all right then."

"Oh, I can warrant you that; I can warrant you that, if it's only because she's mourning for him. You don't suppose that's really going to keep her from marrying as long as she lives, do ye? 'Twouldn't be according to human natur. Mary's an extra nice sort of girl, but, of course, she's human like the rest of us. I guess you'll be safe enough in buying the land."

And on this assurance Creeler finally bought the land. It was a great deal to have the Captain and Aunt Huldah on his side. He had no doubt they would do what they could to influence Mary in his favor. He did not know, however, how distasteful it is for a young woman to be urged to marry against her own wish, and that very often any influence of that kind, when brought to bear, has an opposite effect from what was intended. He finally bought the land.

It was a tract of two hundred acres, bordering on the pond, or lake, as Creeler chose to call it, and adjoining the tract that Tidd owned. It was on the side of the lake nearest the settlement, about a mile to the left of the path that led through the woods to the lake, and about three miles in a straight course across the lake to where the Indians were still encamped. Creeler, had, on further consideration, thought best to forego the advantage of an easterly slope for other advantages, the chief of which was easier access to the settlement. True, he would have to open a road for himself at least two miles through the woods even here; but if he had gone round on the other side of the lake, it would have been double the distance. And he might reasonably expect that Tidd would help in opening a road, at least so far as to his own place. All that would be necessary, however, to admit of driving a team through, would be to clear away some of the undergrowth of the wood, and cut down and fill up the hummocks and holes that lay in the way.

And there was a very pleasant sight for a dwelling on the tract he had bought,—a knoll, not far from the lake, sloping down to the water's edge, from the summit of which, when the trees were cleared away, the whole length of the lake could be seen. Creeler said he would begin to clear there, and put up a temporary log-house for his own quarters until he could get together the materials for such a house as he proposed finally to build.

While looking about, he had again visited the Indian encampment; and this time he left a more favorable impression, probably, in the minds of those swarthy children of the forest, than on his first visit to them. For he bought baskets and other things of them for which he paid some four or five dollars. And a dollar in those days would buy more than it will now; at least of such things as those. Even old Nono looked with a satisfied expression after the young man as he left the camp, carrying the lightest though most valuable part of his purchases; having agreed with Gunquit to deliver the heavier articles at the Captain's house. "Me bring him all right," said Gunquit, in his most amiable mood. "Me bring him," and sitting down by the side of old Nono, he too, followed the retreating figure of his customer; though with a leering eye. "Ugh!" came from the old man, in a sort of subdued grunt. "Ugh!" responded the young one, in rather a more decided key. "Much money."

"Um!" said the old man now; "make good fren."

"Um!" assented the young man; and that was all that either of them said about the matter then.

Creeler had not gone there alone. The Captain was with him; but as the Captain spent no money, he got no thanks. In going home, they passed Tidd's house, and Creeler said he guessed he would stop in for a few minutes. The Captain suspected that he had not bought all those high-priced goods for himself, and that he might not be in the way, he said he guessed he would be going along. "All right," said Creeler; I will stop a few minutes, just to lighten my load, you know;" and he laughed with a meaning that the Captain well understood.

Martha met him at the door. "Why, Mr. Creeler! have you really gone to peddling?" she asked.

Creeler was always quick to recover from the first effect of any such remark, so, with hardly a show of discomposure he replied, "Yes, Miss Martha, I took pity on those poor Indians as I was passing their camp, and thought I would do them a deed of charity. I want a customer myself, now, and stopped to show you my goods."

"Mary, do you want to buy anything to-pay?" called Martha, in an unnecessarily high key.

Creeler stood outside the door, waiting for Mary's reply. It came with some hesitation: "I—don't know, Martha, but—why will you be so rude, Martha, as to keep Mr. Creeler standing outside?" and then she came quickly to the door herself. "I am ashamed, Mr. Creeler, that she should treat you so! pray come in."

Creeler entered the room, while Martha retreated to a corner and covered her face with her hands. "Oh, dear, Mr. Creeler! I really thought you were peddling," she stammered. "I didn't mean to be rude; but you looked so much like a peddler—oh, dear! you won't look at me till I'm done blushing, will you?" and her laughing eyes met Creeler's as she peered through her spread fingers.

"Ah, Martha," said Creeler with a laugh, "I shall make you buy some of my goods to pay for this! Here is a pair of moccasins, now, that will about fit you, I think. Just try them on."

Martha put down her hands and looked at the moccasins,—though without going nearer, "What's the price?" she asked.

"Well—well—I really hardly know what I ought to ask you for them. How much do you think they're worth? They are very cunningly wrought, you see, in true aboriginal designs."

"Are they, really? I thought they were porcupine quills."

"Put one on, Martha, and if you find a quill in it you shall have the pair for nothing."

"Are you sure there's nothing in them, Mr. Creeler? I've heard of rattlesnakes' fangs being in such things. I do hope you haven't come here to put us to death in that way!"

Mary looked at her sister reproachfully, and said to Creeler that the moccasins were very beautiful.

"I certainly thought they were, Miss Fletcher," he replied, or I would not have brought them. There are two pairs, you see, and if you and Martha will accept of them as tokens of my regard, I shall be exceedingly gratified."

"If you really brought them for us, Mr. Creeler, we ought not to refuse them; and yet—and yet—I don't know—I don't think Mr. Creeler—"

"I guess you can leave them if you want to,—if there's nothing poisonous about them," said Martha, without waiting till Mary had finished what she was trying to say.

"I hoped they would please you," said Creeler, with just the slightest shade of disappointment.

"Oh, they are beautiful!—very beautiful, certainly," said Mary. "I wonder that those Indians can make such beautiful things. It must be that they are not so rough and untutored as they seem."

"Have you ever been to their camp, Miss Fletcher?"

"O no; I have never been to the lake, yet; though I am longing so much to look out again upon the water. But it would not be like the sea, of course."

"Oh, certainly not! But it is a lovely bit of water, though. I would like to show it to you. And that reminds me, Miss Fletcher, that there is a new delight you have yet to experience—the crossing of that forest-girt, silvery little lake in a canoe. That is something that you certainly ought to improve the first opportunity to do."

"Mr. Tidd had invited us to go upon the lake in his canoe, and we should probably have gone, but for—his sudden loss. Since then he has hardly been out of sight of the house in that direction."

"The lake, probably, has no attraction for him now," said Creeler, soberly. "The losing of a wife so suddenly would be enough, I suppose, to break some men down. But he will most likely remember his invitation in time to take you there before cold weather comes on. If you and Martha would but trust yourselves with me, however, I should very much enjoy showing you the lake, and the Indian encampment at the same time. Should you delay too long, you might miss of seeing the last."

The sisters looked at each other with questioning eyes. "We couldn't both go, Mary, on account of the children," said Martha.

"No," said Mary; "that is true; and as neither of us could go without the other, Mr. Creeler, I am afraid we shall have to decline your kind invitation."

"But not on account of the children, surely. I think either of your cousins would be very willing to come over and stay with the children while you were away."

"Oh, mother, mother! what shall we do? What will become of us?"

"The Lord will provide," said Mrs. Hilyard, raising her overflowing eyes to the motto on the wall, embroidered by Marion's own hand. "Where is your faith, my child, that it should fail you in this the very hour of need?"

"Mother, it is not so much the loss of our home, nor the poverty and trial in store which grieves me, but that Jack—your own son, my own brother—should have so changed. Oh, mother, I know that our Father in Heaven will not desert us, but to whom on earth can we turn when even Jack can become worldly and heartless?"

At this moment a little blue-eyed girl burst into the room with;

"Mamma—Marion! here is Miss Melia Anderson at the gate, in her buggy. She says will you step out a minute, for she wants to tell you about old Mr. Millard being sunstruck; and she daren't leave her horse without somebody to hold him."

Marion was in no condition to listen to Miss Melia—the greatest gossip in the neighborhood; but Mrs. Hilyard, drying her eyes, was in civility compelled to see the informal visitor. Marion, her head resting upon the window-sill behind the screen of clinging roses, could have heard every word spoken; but, absorbed in her grief, she paid no attention until the name of Wat Hinton struck upon her ear.

"It's true, for certain; for Maria had it from his own sister, Aggie Hinton. Says Maria, in her odd way, 'If he-se-puna luck with all that money'—you know his Uncle Samuel left him most of his property last year—says Maria, 'if he comes back rich, I mean to set my cap for him.' On which Aggie answers, 'Oh, you needn't; for he's to be married before long, and to a real nice, pretty girl.' Of course Maria wanted to know all about it; but Aggie only laughed in her mysterious way, until Maria says, 'I believe you are joking!' when Aggie replies, 'If Walter isn't married before winter I'll make you a present of my new earrings which he has sent me.' So you see it's certain sure; and no doubt he'll bring his bride to visit his family, and then, tell Marion, we may look out for a grand party. When the Hintons undertake to do things, they always do it handsomely."

Marion stayed to hear no more. Gliding out of a side door, she crossed the garden, passing little Myra, who was fondling a snow-white calf, her great pet and treasure, and who called out to her to "see how fast Snowball was growing."

Poor little sister! It would be as hard upon her as upon her mother and herself to leave the dear old home, with all the scenes and objects endeared to them by the associations of years of their lives. For in like manner as Mrs. Hilyard had been born and married, and here her children also had first seen the light.

Two years ago her husband—who had been too little practical to make a successful farmer—had died suddenly, leaving his affairs in a very embarrassed state, and the farm burdened with a very heavy mortgage. Then Jack, good son and brother that he was, had thought it best to go to the city, taking advantage of a situation offered him by a distant relative, until the mortgage should be paid.

Only two weeks ago he had written cheerfully, saying that the matter would be speedily settled to their satisfaction; and now, just as they were expecting to hear that their home was their own again, came this cruel letter.

Marion had said to her mother, not even the loss of their home went to her heart with so sharp a pang as did this evidence of the change in her only brother.

That Jack should have grown so worldly and heartless as to consider his pecuniary advantage before the gratification of his mother's comfort; that he should allow them to be actually turned out of the dear old house, and go to reside in the strange city, where they could never feel at home—oh, this was the bitterest pang of all!

So Marion had thought upon first reading that letter; and it was not until hearing Miss 'Melia's words to her mother that she awoke to the consciousness that fate could have even a greater sorrow than this in store for her.

One year ago she had parted from her accepted lover, Wat Hinton, in mutual anger on both sides. Wat had become jealous, and had spoken sharply to her, and in a manner which she considered herself justified in resenting.

Wat was too proud to apologize, and Marion too proud as well as too delicate to make advances to a reconciliation; and so they had drifted apart, both miserable, until Wat had broken the last link by going to the West.

She heard of him from time to time through his family, but no word or message to herself ever came. In all this while she had looked forward with a faint, yearning hope to the possibility of his some time returning, and of all being made up between them.

But now this last hope was rudely stricken to the ground. Wat was going to be married. He had forgotten her, and was lost to her forever.

"Oh, it is hard—so hard to bear!" thought Marion, as with hands unconsciously tightly clasped, she passed slowly under the appie boughs of the old orchard. "Life is bitter. It has taken all from me. It can have no more to give. Only my dear, dear mother and Myra! For their sakes I must be strong, and try to bear it all."

On the verge of the orchard, where the high bank sloped abruptly to the meadow, she came to a mass of tangled honeysuckle, fashioned into a rustic arbor. Wat had made it for her, and here in fact it was that they had last parted.

Down in the meadow ran a little pathway, leading by a short cut to Wat's home, a couple of miles away. How often she had set here of an evening and watched for him!

She could scarcely look back upon any object now before her eyes which was not connected with some association of Wat.

There was the walnut tree which he and Jack used to climb, and there the clear, laughing brook in which he had taught her to steer the little boat which he had made for her, laden with grain, down to Jack's famous water mill, at the roots of that old willow.

Further up was the real "grist and saw mill," which Jack had always been so desirous of owning, and which everybody said would be such a good investment for one who could manage it properly.

And then Marion, seated on the bench in the rustic arbor, turned and looked long and yearningly at the old farm-house peeping from the great beeches across the orchard. No other place on earth could ever be home to her. And her mother? Oh, it would be harder still for her, whose whole life of fifty years had been spent under that roof.

A sudden sound aroused Marion—a sharp whistle, as of some one calling to a dog, and she saw through tear-dimmed eyes the figure of a man hurrying along the pathway in the meadow. She drew back behind the screen of the honeysuckle.

The path led past the arbor, but at the foot of the steep bank, she would not be discovered in her retreat. So she thought; but a moment or two after there was a sound of footsteps ascending the bank, a rustle of the honeysuckle branches, and Marion saw standing in the entrance of the arbor the figure of a tall young man, who looked almost as much startled as herself.

For an instant they gazed at each other—Marion pale, and the stranger with a flush rising to his handsome face. Then he said, as he held out his hand, "Marion, don't you know me?"

She gave him her hand in silence. It was Wat. And suddenly, with the sight of him came the full bitterness of her sorrow, in the consciousness that he was lost to her forever. She was nothing to him now, and he must be nothing to her.

"I am glad to have so unexpectedly found you here in this dear old spot," he said. "I arrived at home only an hour ago, and could not rest until I had seen you."

She met his eyes, bent upon her with a strange earnestness, and her pale cheek faintly flushed, but she could not have spoken a word.

"Marion," he said suddenly, "have you no welcome for me! Is it possible that you cannot forgive me?"

"Forgive you?"

"Yes: for all my absurd jealousy and pride and folly. I have never had a happy moment since I parted from you, Marion, and I have come back at last to beg your forgiveness, and to beg too for the love which I forfeited, but which I cannot live without."

"I do not understand you, Wat. I do not know why you should speak thus to me, when—when you are going to be married."

"Who told you that of me, Marion?"

"It came from Agnes, your own sister." He smiled.

"Aggie knows my wishes. It was she who encouraged me to come back. She thought you would forgive me. Will you, Marion, darling?"

She had averted her face to hide her tearful eyes, but he now took both her hands, and as he drew her toward him, a great tide of unspeakable joy rushed over her, and she could only murmur faintly: "Oh, Wat!"

When they were both calmer she told him of the heavy grief that had just fallen upon them. They must leave their dear old home, which had passed into the hands of strangers.

"Of strangers, Marion? Do you call me a stranger?"

"You, Wat?"

He looked surprised in his turn.

"Did you not know that it is I who have purchased the dear old farm? Did you not receive Jack's letter?"

"Oh, Walter, it cannot, cannot be true!" She took from a pocketbook a paper, which he opened and placed before her. It was the mortgage which her father had given Mr. Abner Harris.

"And the place is really yours now?" she said, looking up radiantly through sudden tears.

"Not mine, but ours, darling!"

She was too happy to speak a word in answer.

"You see, dear," Wat said, "Jack and I talked it over the other day, and we agreed, as he was so anxious to purchase the mill and had not means sufficient for both, that I should take the farm, and leave him at liberty to invest in the mill property. It is the very best thing for Jack and for his mother, as I explained to her, if only she had received his letter. Jack is not suited for a farmer, and could not have made much of the farm, as he will certainly do with the mill. He came up with me, in order to attend to the matter. Forgive me that I neglected to inform you, but I left him behind in the maple-field, talking with Aggie."

Marion started up with a glad cry. Coming down the opposite declivity of the meadow was somebody, joyously waving his hand, and in two minutes she was sobbing in her brother's arms—sobbing from a full excess of joy such as she had never in her life before known.

They hastened to the house, all three eager to gladden the heart of the mother.

Jack sprang up the steps and took her in his arms, while Wat lifted Myra, who had run to meet them in frantic delight.

As Marion crossed the threshold, the old clock rang out a welcome chime. "Seven o'clock!" said the girl softly.

Her heart was full, and she turned away and went quietly up to her own room. As she passed the clock, she looked up at it with an expression almost of awe.

"What a lifetime of misery and happiness in one hour!" she murmured.—*Selected.*

Anecdotes.

☞ "What's jography, Bill?" "It's telling of forrin lands that we know nothin' about by 'cute chaps that never seen 'em." Bill got a government situation.

☞ Jones, (through the lather;) "Strange I never can grow a good beard, and yet my grandfather had one three feet long." Henpeck: "Can't account for it, sir, unless you take after your grandmother."

☞ "I don't believe in fashionable churches," said a lady recently, "but after all, considering that we are all to go to the same heaven, it is better to keep up the social distinction as long as we can."

☞ A good colored man once said in a class meeting: "Brethren, when I was a boy, I took a hatchet and went into de woods. When I found a tree dat was straight, big, and solid, I didn't touch dat tree; but when I found one leaning a little and hollow inside I soon had him down. So when de debbil goes after Christians, he don't touch dem dat stand straight and true; but dem dat lean a little and are hollow inside."

A WIFE'S OWN LETTERS.—"I want you to distinctly understand, sir!" began a Third street wife as her husband came home and tossed into her lap an open letter addressed to her personally—"I want you to distinctly understand that I read the papers!"

"Do, eh?" was his careless reply.

"Yes, sir, I do, and I know that the postmaster-general has ruled that a husband has no control over his wife's correspondence. Here, sir, you have for the fifth or sixth time opened a letter addressed to me personally!"

"Yes, I know it," he demurely replied, "and for the fifth or sixth time I have written across the envelope: 'Opened by mistake!' If that doesn't cover the case you can appeal!"

She didn't appeal, but she is going to rent a lock-box.—*Detroit Free Press.*

PININ' FOR IT.—In the South an eternal warfare seems to rage between the country negro and the town darkey. This was illustrated at the passenger depot in Atlanta, the other day. A colored youth from the Pike county approached a town negro, and the following conversation ensued:

"Whar bouts is de ticket office?"

"Right dar 'fo yo' eyes."

"Fo whose eyes?"

"Yone."

"Is you de ticket office?"

"Look yer, nigger, don't you gim none yo' slack."

"I'm a mighty slack man, old man, when I gets stirred up."

"An' you'll get stirred up ef you stan' roun' yer foolin' longer me."

"Dat's the kinder ex'cise w'at I'm a pinin' fer.

And with that they clinched and had a right lively tussel. They were separated, however, before a policeman came along, and the Pike county darkey found the ticket office. The town negro, it may be well to mention, was badly used up.

NATURE'S REMEDY.
VEGETINE
THE GREAT BLOOD PURIFIER.
Is better than any MEDICINE.
HENDERSON, KY., Dec. 1877.
I have used H. R. Stevens's Vegetine, and like it better than any medicine I have used for purifying the blood. One bottle of Vegetine accomplished more good than all other medicines I have taken.
THOS. LYNE,
Henderson, Ky.
VEGETINE is composed of Roots, Barks and Herbs. It is very pleasant to take; every child likes it.
Vegetine is Sold by all Druggists.
mh1-eow2t

BISHOP SOULE'S LINIMENT
Is a POSITIVE CURE for Sciatica, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Spinal Complaint, Contracted Cords, Lame Back, Sprains, &c. It has cured cases given up by physicians as hopeless, AND IS THE ONLY CERTAIN CURE FOR SCIATICA. TRY IT, IT WILL CURE YOU. Always procure large bottles for severe cases. Large bottles $1.50, small bottles 75 cts., half dozen large bottles $7.00. Sold by all druggists. F. W. RYDER & SON, Proprietors, Boston Mass. Send stamp for "HOUSEHOLD CARE BOOK."
my8-eo

Cooked Cotton Seed Meal,
ALSO LINSEED MEAL for sale in any quantity. Especial attention given to car lots. Cheapest feed in the market for milch cows.
J. E. SOUTH & CO.,
jan11-3t 2 India St., Boston.

From the Hon. Thurlow Weed,
ENDORSING
DR. RADWAY'S
R. R.
REMEDIES,
After Using Them Several Years.
NEW YORK, Jan. 4, 1877.
DEAR SIR:—Having for several years used your medicines, doubtingly at first, but after experiencing their efficacy, with full confidence, it is no less a pleasure than a duty to thankfully acknowledge the advantages we have derived from them. The pills are resorted to as often as occasion requires, and always with the desired effect. The Ready Relief cannot be better described than it is by name. We apply the liniment frequently and freely, almost invariably finding the prominent relief. Truly yours,
DR. RADWAY. [Signed] THURLOW WEED.
Radway's Ready Relief
CURES THE WORST PAINS IN FROM ONE TO TWENTY MINUTES.
NOT ONE HOUR
After reading this advertisement need any one
SUFFER WITH PAIN!
RADWAY'S READY RELIEF
IS A CURE FOR EVERY PAIN.
IT WAS THE FIRST AND IS
THE ONLY PAIN REMEDY
That instantly stops the most excruciating pain, allays Inflammation, and cures Congestion, whether of the Lungs, Stomach, Bowels, or other glands or organs by one application.
In from One to Twenty Minutes.
No matter how violent or excruciating the pain the RHEUMATIC, Bed-ridden, Infirm, Crippled, Nervous, Neuralgic or prostrated with disease may suffer.
RADWAY'S READY RELIEF
WILL AFFORD INSTANT EASE.
Inflammation of the kidneys, Inflammation of the Bladder, Inflammation of the Bowels, Congestion of the Lungs, Sore Throat, Difficult Breathing, Palpitation of the Heart, Hysterics, Croup, Diphtheria, Catarrh, Influenza, Headache, Toothache, Neuralgia, Rheumatism, Cold Chills, Ague Chills, Chilblains and Frost Bites.
The application of the READY RELIEF to the part or parts where the pain or difficulty exists will afford ease and comfort.
Thirty to sixty drops in half a tumbler of water will in a few moments cure Cramps, Spasms, Sour Stomach, Heartburn, Sick Headache, Diarrhœa, Dysentery, Colic, Wind in the Bowels, and all Internal Pains.
Travellers should always carry a bottle of RADWAY'S READY RELIEF with them. A few drops in water will prevent sickness or pains from change of water. It is better than French Brandy or Bitters as a stimulant.
FEVER AND AGUE.
FEVER AND AGUE cured for fifty cents. There is not a remedial agent in this world that will cure Fever and Ague, and all other Malarious, Bilious, Scarlet, Typhoid, Yellow, and other Fevers, (aided by RADWAY'S PILLS,) so quick as RADWAY'S READY RELIEF. Fifty cents per bottle.
Strong Testimony from Honorable George Starr as to the Power of Radway's Ready Relief in a Case of Sciatic Rheumatism.
NO. 8 VAN NESS-PLACE, NEW YORK.
DR. RADWAY: With